

Staying In Touch

December 2013-January 2014

The Farmville District celebrated its One Hundred Forty Third District Conference at Victoria UMC on Saturday, November 23, 2013 with approximately 180 in attendance.

Those that attended were blessed with a truly inspiring message by Bishop Young Jin Cho. Many came forward during an altar call.

The music was performed by Kyungsuk Cho and his wife, Hyesook Lee. The youth of Victoria sang our Gathering Music and for the Offertory Kyungsuk sang the Lord's Prayer.

The offering was designated for the Philippines through UMCOR in the amount of \$2,591.50.

We sincerely thank Rev. Kyungsuk Cho and the people of Victoria United Methodist Church for their gracious hospitality.

Elected 2014 Annual Conference Members:

Ruby Lee Anderson
Richard Benninghove
Robert Carpenter, Jr.
Harold Crowder
Betsey Davis
George Davis
Phyllis Goin
Mable Knotts
Frances Moore
Betty Morris
Jeff Postans
Martha Reed
Susan Rigg
Geraldine Sanderson
Carol Sanger
Joan Tipton
Susie Wolf
Ollie Wright

Official Members by Discipline:

Two youths, Two young adults
Betsey Hanmer -UMW President
Johnnie Morris—District Lay Leader

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE
INFORMATION-ON PG 1**

**READ ABOUT BOB'S PILGRIMAGE
TO KOREA—ON PGs 2-3**

**MID-YEAR APPOINTMENT CHANGES
ON PG 3**

**CONFERENCE TRAINING EVENTS ON
PG 4 FOR CLERGY & LAITY**

**UM DAY AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
INFO ON PG 4**

**CHILDREN'S RETREAT INFO ON
PG 5**

**WHERE ARE THE DCYM GOING FOR
THEIR RETREAT IN MARCH ON PG 5**

**DISTRICT VACANCY—DISTRICT
YOUTH COORDINATOR—SEE
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
ON PG 5**

**DISTRICT SPONSORED TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES ON PG 6**

**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE
ON A DISTRICT OR CONFERENCE
BOARD—SEE HOW TO MAKE THAT
HAPPEN ON PG 6**

DISTRICT OFFICE NOTES ON PG 7

CONFERENCE UMM INFO ON PG 7

DISTRICT UMW INFO ON PG 7

Sisters & Brothers of the Farmville District,

2013 Spiritual Pilgrimage

This was a journey of a lifetime! I witnessed radical hospitality for eight days. I already knew Koreans were grateful to Americans for the Methodist missionaries who introduced the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them and the US Armed Forces for freeing them from communism, but to experience that gratefulness was almost overwhelming. Bishop Cho has challenged us to change our culture of prayer, so I went to South Korea to develop and deepen my prayer life.

Koreans are a praying people, something I already knew, but to experience it firsthand was a lasting experience. They live the life of prayer. They rise early in the morning and join with their brothers and sisters in the faith in one of the most powerful and energizing worship services I have ever attended. I remember asking Bishop Cho about Tongsung Kido Prayer and his response was "I can tell you bits and pieces of the Tongsung Kido Prayer, but you must experience it." Well, I did and loved every moment of it. I could not wait to get up the next morning to attend the 5:00 a.m. Morning Prayer. It begins with praise and worship with congregational singing of hymns. When I say singing, I mean singing. The leader sets the rhythm (very fast) by beating his hand on the pulpit with the pianist playing in the background. The same fast rhythm is for all hymns. What a blessing to hear familiar hymns played on the piano, yet all singing in our native tongues, a holy moment. Then the Pastor preaches and that is followed by another couple of hymns. Then the pastor along with the congregation raises their arms in the air saying a loud (three times) LORD! LORD! LORD! The pastor and congregation immediately start praying out loud for at least half an hour. I could not help but think about Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended and all were praying in their native languages. It was a God moment!

Dr. Dwight Judy in his book, Quiet Pentecost, shared that there are four things that must happen if a church is to be vital and effective: the first is worship (opus dei). Worship not in the sense of an hour on Sunday morning, and going home. It is in planning and preparing for, participating in worship and not just by the pastor, but the whole congregation. The Morning Prayer Service was just that. When I finished the Morning Prayer Service I was worn out. I noticed one night when I went by the doors of the nave (sanctuary) the pulpit lights were on. So I went to get my iPad to take a photograph. As I stepped inside the nave I heard a few voices praying out loud. I asked David, one of our guides and an associate pastor, was that normal? He said, "Yes", the doors of the church stay unlocked until midnight.

I learned Koreans are persistent in praying. That was so evident in the churches we visited. We visited four churches with each pastor sharing that the foundation of prayer was the reason for the success of the church. One pastor shared that the church remained around 20 to 30 members for about 10 years, but through prayer and commitment the church is now a thriving congregation in its community. Another example of persistent prayer was when asked if South Koreans feared communism from the north. The response was "No", because they prayed daily that God would take care of them, and they believe God will.

One of the most impressive visits we made was to the DA-IL Community. "As Jesus brought salvation to mankind by becoming the sacrifice Himself, Pastor Choi practices serving and sharing true love from small things by practicing Jesus' example himself." Again his ministry was founded by prayer starting from one boiling pot to feed the hungry. The ministry saturated in prayer has grown to a church, Social Welfare Foundation, Spiritual Life Training, and the Angel Hospital where all services are free and funded by small donations.

*Revival and growth of the Korean Church happened because of a **Powerful Spiritual Movement** (in 1907 sincere repentance of a lay leader led to the Great Revival that broke out across the nation, in 1930 Rev. Kim Doo, Presbyterian pastor, led churches into God's word, repentance and healing, 1960-80 a revival movement spread across South Korea through revival meetings); **Churches overcoming hardships** (churches were persecuted by the Japanese colonization and Korean War); **Sacrifice of Ministers and Devotional Service of Laity** (low salaries and pastors were committed to growing the*

church); **Korean Churches' Self-Support** (building churches, planting a new church, sending missionaries); **Prayer Movements** (Early Morning Prayer Meeting, Overnight Prayer Meeting, Fasting and Prayer, Dedicated Prayer and Prayer Mountain); **Training and Educating Lay People** (Bible study, discipleship, social and family life, personal relations, leadership training, volunteer service, evangelism, nurturing program for new comers); **Offering and Tithe Movement** (Tithing is basic, Thank Offering, Building Offering, Mission Offering and Relief Offering); **Developing a Strong Evangelical Work** (grand meeting for evangelism, evangelism Sunday, visitation evangelism, evangelism through letters and publications, public evangelism); and **Planting a New Church and Sending a Missionary** (51,000 churches and 12 million members, 23,331 missionaries in 169 countries).

I am beginning to understand how I can respond to Bishop Cho's challenge to change the culture of prayer. My prayer life is more than offering intercessory prayers. I am committed to living the life of prayer I witnessed in South Korea. Jesus taught us through "The Lord's Prayer" that I am to approach God as I would approach my mom or dad; to keep God's name holy and sanctified; to experience the Kingdom of God among the community of faith, and knowing the completion of the Kingdom of God comes "when we all get to heaven what day of rejoicing that will be"; to pray daily for our essential sustenance; to know all humans are sinners and in need of forgiveness; and knowing God does not tempt us to sin. God is leading me on a journey of a lifetime. Thanks be to God!

Gam Sa Ham Mi Da! (Thank you)
For you I am praying,

Bob

Bob's Itinerary
October, 2013

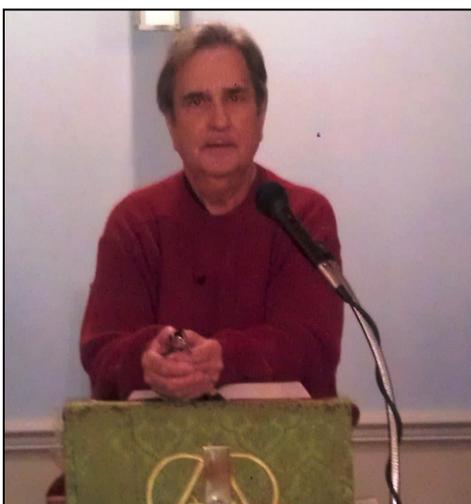


- 1- Cabinet Meeting
- 2- Worship Services
(Scottsburg & Clover)
- 1- Preached at Glenwood
- Spiritual Pilgrimage to Korea
- 5- church meetings
- 1- Meet Your Pastor meeting
(South Brunswick)
- 1- District meeting
- 1- Conference meeting
- 4- Circle Charge Conferences
- 1- Called Charge Conference

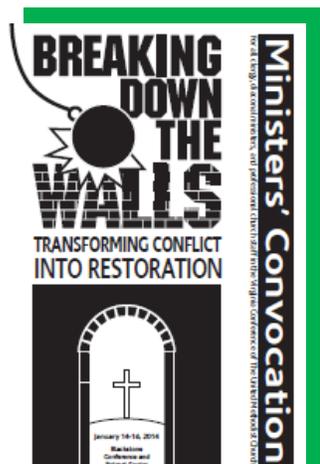
Traveled 1805.8 miles

PASTOR APPOINTMENT CHANGES:
The Rev. Jeffery P. Clemens and the Rev. Mary V. Tharpe retired effective November 1, 2013.

Interim pastors are: Jennifer Vestal Moore serving the South Brunswick Charge and Sherwood "Tony" Johnson serving the Union UMC.

MINISTERS' CONVOCATION
Tue, Jan. 14, 2014 - Thu, Jan.
16, 2014—Blackstone
Conference and Retreat Center.



Visit www.vaumc.org under events to get full registration information. Pastors received 1.0 CEU for 10 hours of the events scheduled.

LAY SERVANT ACADEMY
February 21-23, 2014
BC&RC, Blackstone.

Theme: "Lord, Renew Us with Your Spirit". Classes being offered: Basic Course, Six classes on Prayer, and 10 classes for Certified Lay Servants. There also will be sixteen Mini-classes about various topics.

Classes are open to anyone, not just Lay Servants and Lay Speakers. Friday evening is optional for most classes with the academy starting Saturday at 8AM.

The brochure for the Academy is now available on the Conference website with access under the "Events" calendar (button on the right side of the opening page of www.vaumc.org). Search the February dates.

You can also go to the Lay Servant Ministries section of the website and select "District and Conference Training Events." The direct link to that page is: <http://www.vaumc.org/LayServantTraining>



United Methodist Day at
the General Assembly
Thu, 6 Feb, 2014,
7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

You are invited to celebrate the 22nd United Methodist Day at the General Assembly! This is our opportunity to help faith communities become empowered to serve as missionaries of justice, as well as the more traditional missionaries of mercy. United Methodist Day and other avenues of faithful advocacy help us to look beyond mercy ministry to ask: "What caused this problem? What causes hunger? Global warming?" By joining together and establishing relationships with our elected officials, we empower members of our congregations to wonder, "How can I make a difference? How can I be a Good Samaritan in our world to its fullest sense?" To register visit www.vaumc.org, events for Feb 6, 2014.

PAUMCS CONFERENCE,
April 3-6, 2014,
ASHEVILLE, N.C.

Theme: Reaching the Peak of Our Profession. Open to church administrative staff, full-time, part-time, paid and volunteer, office managers, newsletter editors. For registration information go to www.paumcs.org.

CANDIDACY SUMMIT

Considering going into Ministry and don't know where to start? Candidates for licensed or ordained ministry and those discerning candidacy are invited to attend: January 3-4, 2014 or July 18-19, 2014. Learn the requirements for becoming a certified candidate. **ALL CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A SUMMIT PRIOR TO CERTIFICATION.** For more information or to register go to www.vaumc.org/candidacy. Attendees must have already graduated from high school.

CLERGY WOMEN , COME TO THE TABLE, is a therapy group designed exclusively for clergy women of all faith traditions who have been called by God to vocational ministry. Areas of potential group focus include:

- Managing stresses of pastoral ministry
- Being attentive to and improving self care
- Developing personal and spiritual disciplines
- Balancing work, home and family
- Managing interpersonal relationships
- Dealing with depression, anxiety, grief or loss

The group will meet on Mondays. Sessions will be held at the main office of VIPCare, 2000 Bremo Road, Suite 105, Richmond, VA. For information please contact Dr. Sandy Hamilton, 804-282-8332, www.vipcare.org.

CLERGY SPOUSES' RETREAT Thu, 27 Feb. to Sat, 1 Mar.

Location: Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center, Blackstone, VA. More information will be forthcoming at www.vaumc.org website.

Farmville District Children's Retreat

Jan. 18 – Jan. 19, 2014, Blackstone Conf. & Retreat Ctr.

Theme: FRIENDSHIP

The Children's Retreat is unique to the Farmville District. It provides an opportunity for children in grades 3 – 6 to come together, celebrate, and grow in their faith. Activities include art, swimming, recreation, music, mission, Bible study, and worship. There will be a talent show on Saturday night – come prepared to entertain and be entertained! All talent show entries must be church appropriate. Contact me by email if you have any questions about the talent show entries. My e-mail address is rahorn59@hotmail.com. Talent show sign-ups will be during the day on Saturday. Music needs to be approved also.

An important focus of our weekend is missions. Food bags continue to be a need in our community and will be our project again this year. Each child should bring in **at least one** non-perishable food item **from each food group** – canned meats, vegetables, fruits, boxed pasta/rice/cereals, and boxed desserts. It starts with registration Saturday at 8 a.m. and ends after lunch Sunday. **Chaperones are required (1 adult per 5 children) and will be assigned jobs. Early deadline (for cheaper fees) is December 7, 2012**

Questions call – Ruth Ann Horn at 434-292-8790

FARMVILLE DISTRICT DCYM... Plans are in full swing for the Youth Rally and Winter Retreat— March 7-9 @ Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, VA.

Registration is \$95, starts at 7 pm on Friday so get there around 6 to get settled. Ends on Sunday. The Keith Elgin Band from Northern Virginia will be there and we are still nailing the rest down. Super! Check the DCYM website www.farmvilledcym.org or contact Farmville District Youth Coordinator, Rodney Lewis, 607-7442

FARMVILLE DISTRICT YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: POSITION AVAILABLE

Farmville District United Methodist Church Youth Ministry—seeks an energetic, well-organized, and dedicated Christian servant leader to coordinate district youth events and programs, train adults who work with the district and local church youth ministries, and help youth to grow in their relationship with God. This person must be an active, professing member of the United Methodist Church.

This strong and well-defined ministry serves youth from 11 counties across Southside Virginia. It requires a minimum of 20 work hours a week. The salary is \$15,500 a year.

If interested please send the following to Rev. Robert J. Parks, Jr. Farmville District Superintendent:

- * written resume
- * three completed references including one from your pastor
- * your personal faith story

The address to send this information is: 204 High Street, Farmville, VA 23901.

If you are serious about this opportunity and would like a complete job description please email us at FarmvilleDistrict@vaumc.org, call 434-392-4687 or write to the above address to request one.

DEADLINE DATE FOR APPLICANTS: DECEMBER 16, 2013

Sending blessings
of
**Peace &
Happiness**
to you at
Christmas!!



Bob Susan
Phyllis
Rodney Sue
Johnnie Ruth

Are you being called to service? Do you have a passion for missions, finance, church planting, etc.? Do you have a desire to serve on a district committee or a conference board?

You have an opportunity to be considered for the vacancies on these committees or boards. Through the nominating process your name can be lifted up for a place to serve the United Methodist Church. Please share this information with others that might have a passion to serve.

The Nomination Facilitations Profile Form can be accessed at www.vaumc.org, Ministries, Common Table, Leadership Discovery and Development Team. Send the completed form to farmvilledistrict@vaumc.org or mail to Farmville District UMC, 204 High St., Farmville, VA 23901.

Information about the boards can be found on the conference website (using the same process as listed above) by "click here" to view the file: descriptions of the work of the boards, specific expertise needed, date and locations of meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact the district office at 434-392-4687 or farmvilledistrict@vaumc.org.

Thank you for your help and consideration, *Farmville District Nominations Facilitation Committee, CLDDT (Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team)*

LUNENBURG CHARGE INVITES YOU TO...

Prepare With Prayer

Come experience a time of rest and peace this hectic holiday season. In preparation of the coming of Christ, all are invited to 'Prepare with Prayer'. These tender prayer and communion services will occur each Tuesday night in December at 7 pm, at Antioch UMC, 3489 South Hill Road, Kenbridge. Come as you are for a quiet time of prayer lasting less than an hour. We will give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ and prepare our hearts to receive him.

The Longest Night

For some there is sadness that accompanies the Christmas season. The Lunenburg Charge will once again host the Longest Night Service on Saturday, December 21 at 7 pm. Held on the longest night of the year, we admit and confess that we especially miss our loved ones who are departed, and mourn relationships which are broken, all while praising God's enduring faithfulness. The service will be at Antioch UMC, 3489 South Hill Road, Kenbridge.



Farmville District Leadership Team News

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES—Training is sponsored by individual circles and is open to any clergy or laity who desires to attend the training.

Connectional Circle 1: June Carpenter reported a training date of January 12, 2014 at Ward's Chapel beginning at 2PM. Classes on Finance, PPR, and Prayer will be taught.

Connectional Circle 2: Training is scheduled for January 26 from 3-5PM at Crenshaw UMC. Classes planned: Trustees taught by Rev. Rich Meiser and Walter Kraft, Pastor/Parish Relations taught by Bob Parks and a Prayer Workshop taught by Carol Sanger.

Team meeting dates announced: Future Connectional **Leadership Team** Meeting dates are:
December 18, 10-Noon / January 29, 2014, 10-Noon / February 14, 2014, 10-Noon



The District United Methodist Executive Board was elected and installed at the District Day in September. The following people will be serving on the Executive Board.

- Betsy Hanmer—President
- Hedy Thomas—Vice President
- Alice Johnson—Secretary
- Mary Fulton—Treasurer
- Jane Smith—Spiritual Growth
- Kathleen Mitchel—Social Action
- Elaine Chipley-Education & Interpretation
- Cecile Ford-Membership
- Becky Waters-Program Resources
- BC&RC (VUMAC)-Virginia Broyles
- Communications-Marilyn Johnson
- Nominating Committee:
- Thelma Crowder-Chairman
- Laura Jane Rash
- Nancy Nelson
- Tammy Skipwith
- Harriett Garrett
- Brenda Lewis
- Donna Scherpich

**UMW ADVENT DAY APART—
DECEMBER 7, PAYNE
MEMORIAL UMC, 9:30am**

Speaker: Deaconess Diane Hassell. Director of Outreach Ministries, Amelia Charge.
Program: 9:30-11:30
Brown bag lunch: 11:30
Mission project: Kingsway Prison Ministry (small legal pads, chapstick and toothpaste) Offering will benefit the Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, NC—a residence for missionaries and deaconesses. Everyone is invited.

**A NOTE FROM JEFF HALL,
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST MEN
PRESIDENT. . .** I just returned from the SEJ Conference and was really proud of our Conference leading the SEJ on Charters. We have 296 active chartered Men's groups. The nearest is the Western North Carolina Conference with 260 chartered.

We still have 23 that have lapsed for 2012 and 70 that have lapsed in previous years.

Can we get to at least 300 chartered for 2014 - I sure hope so and we need to work on that as we are coming to the close of 2013.

As for EMS report we are tied with the North Carolina Conference with 117 so we need to work on that also.

Our SEJ consists of the following conferences: Alabama-West Florida, Florida, Holston, Kentucky, Memphis, Mississippi, North Alabama, North Carolina, North Georgia, South Carolina, South Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Western North Carolina.

**YOUR 2013 ANNUAL
PARSONAGE REVIEWS AND
INVENTORY FORMS** need to be in our office by the end of this year. These reports can be found at www.vaumc.org, Administrative Services, Center for Clergy Excellence, Clergy Family Resources, Parsonages, Annual Review of the Parsonage and the Parsonage Inventory.

**DISTRICT
OFFICE**

**NEWS
& Notes**

Newsletter Information:

If you have any corrections to make in how you receive the "Staying In Touch" newsletter please email Phyllis at farmvilledistrict@vaumc.org or call 434-392-4687. We recently have had letters returned as non-deliverable by email and the Post Office. As always if you receive a hard copy and would like to receive the letter as an email just let us know.

PASTORS AND TREASURERS

The district auditor has requested that all financial entries for the district and conference apportionments be finalized for the 2013 district records as of December 31, 2013. We are asking that your year end district apportionments be in to the conference treasurer early in the month of December or at least by the 24th if at all possible. That will give them time during this busy month to deposit your funds and credit our account by December 31. The conference office will still accept funds later than this date (including district apportionments) but December 31 is the cut off for our 2013 audit records. No exceptions.

DISTRICT OFFICE—Christmas Holiday hours. We will be closed from December 24 until January 2nd. Please mark this on your calendars for reference. If you have an emergency please notify Bob Parks. Pastors can find his contact information in their district directory.



STAYING IN TOUCH

Farmville District
Virginia Conference

The United Methodist Church

204 High St., Farmville, Virginia 23901
Phone: 434-392-4687 * FAX: 1-877-233-6168
E-Mail: farmvilledistrict@vaumc.org
Web site: umcfarmville.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #89
FARMVILLE, VA 23901

Young Jin Cho	Area Bishop
Robert J. Parks, Jr.	District Superintendent
Phyllis Goin	Administrative Assistant
District Leadership:	
Johnnie Morris	Lay Leader
Betsy Hanmer	President, UMW
Rodney Lewis	Youth Coordinator
Ruth Horn	Children's Coordinator
Sue Mayo	Newsletter Editor

We are entering the church season of Advent. It is the beginning of a new year in our church calendar. The Advent Season is a time of preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ and preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Susan and I would like to take this time to wish you a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Bob

DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES	
<p style="text-align: center;">From the "Staying In Touch" Editor.....</p> <p>Schedule for submissions to the newsletter:</p> <p>Jan 10 2014 for Feb—Mar letter Mar 10, 2014 for Apr-May letter</p> <p>All articles need to be submitted as you wish them to appear and sent to Sue Mayo, editor Email: bns mayo@yahoo.com, Mail: 521 Walnut Hill Rd, Crewe, VA 23930 Phone: 434-292-5486.</p> <p>We reserve the right to edit all articles submitted for publication.</p>	<p>December 2013</p> <p>7 UMW Day Apart, Payne Memorial, 9:30AM 8 Evening at Blackstone 18 Discipleship Leadership Team Mtg, 10-Noon 24 to Jan 1 - D.O. Closed</p> <p>January 2014</p> <p>3-4 Candidacy Summit 12 Appointment Recommendation Deadline 12 Circle 1 Training-Ward's Chapel, 2PM 14-16 Ministers' Convocation, BC&RC 18-19 District Children's Retreat, BC&RC 26 Circle 2 Training, Crenshaw, 3-5PM 29 Leadership Team Meeting,</p> <p>February 2014</p> <p>6 UM Day at General Assembly 14 Leadership Team, 10-Noon 21-23 Lay Servant Academy-BC&RC 27 Clergy Spouse Retreat-BC&RC</p> <p>March 2014</p> <p>7-9 Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie</p>