



Welcome and Farewells:

- ◆ At Calvary, we welcome Rev. David Vaughan, with his wife April and family. The Vaughans come to us from the Harrisonburg District. (Rev. Charlie Reynolds and wife Mindy will be retiring from his long service in the itineracy, while Rev. Nancy Vaughan will head to Grace UMC, Elizabeth River District.)
- ◆ At Collierstown, Rev. Bill Bearden will follow Rev. Jim Bollinger.
- ◆ At Epworth (Selma), which will now be yoked with Mountain Valley, we welcome Staunton native and new Local Pastor Jonathan Greer and spouse Laney. (Rev. Nathan Colwell and family will be heading to Rockingham Court on the Roanoke District. Rev. Ray Tucker and Rev. Lee Dodson and wife Thelma reenter retirement!)
- ◆ At Glovier Memorial (Waynesboro), we welcome back Rev. Janet and Gene Knott from retirement ministry. (Rev. Ryan Schaeffer, wife Erin, and family will be moving to Fieldstone on the Roanoke District.)
- ◆ At Greenville, Rev. Jim Bollinger and wife Deb will succeed Rev. Kevin Haynes.
- ◆ On the Hot Springs Charge, Rev. Andrew Baek, wife Soyoon and family will follow Rev. Gennie Bowles, who is off to Prince of Peace on the Alexandria District.
- ◆ On the Iron Gate Charge, Rev. Bob Smith (RE) and wife Lee will succeed Bill Bearden.
- ◆ At Marquis Memorial (Staunton), we welcome back the Rev. Tizzy von Trapp Walker and Vern from extension ministry. (We say a fond farewell to Rev. Bob and Marge Sharp, who are taking retirement and moving to MD to be in care of family.)
- ◆ On the McDowell Charge, Rev. Chilton McPheeters (RE) and spouse Loy of the Upper NY Conference will follow the redoubtable Rev. David Boger and wife Vicki.
- ◆ Rev. Kevin Haynes, wife Beth and family will follow Rev. Jenelle Watson to serve St. Mark's (Waynesboro), as Kevin begins bi-vocational ministry as the new elementary-ed music teacher for Buena Vista City Schools.
- ◆ At St. Paul's - Goshen, Rick Kelley, with wife Veronica and family (of the Pen-Del Conference) will follow Mary Pysell.
- ◆ At St. Paul's - Staunton, Rev. Norman Ramsey and spouse Karen will arrive from the Richmond District. (We say goodbye to Rev. Bryson Smith, wife Lori and family as they go off to Good Shepherd on the Richmond District.)
- ◆ At Stonewall (on the Cherryvale Coop Parish), Rev. Wade Munford (RE) and wife Sherry joins Clayton's team.
- ◆ And at West Augusta, Rev. Mark Reuter (RE) and wife Melanie will follow Rev. David Coffee and wife Chris; Mark returns to us from the West Ohio Conference.

The Mission of the Virginia Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.

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Dates to Remember:

July:

July - August 20 - DS will be on Sabbatical Leave

17 District Stewards, 6:30 p.m. at Trinity UMC in Lexington

August:

3 - Clergy Welcoming Picnic, 5:00 p.m. at Calvary UMC

16 - District Committee on Ordained Ministry

September:

3 - Office is closed for Labor Day - Office schedule returns to M-F 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

9 - Charge Conferences begin

16 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE - 3:00 p.m. at Fairfield UMC.

18-20 - DS at Cabinet

22 - Cooperative Parish Ministry, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd UMC in Henrico.

From Beth Christian

Director of Congregational Vitality

bethchristian@vaumc.org



Discipleship is a process by which a person makes a commitment to follow Jesus Christ, grows in his or her understanding of God, and shares his or her faith through word and deed with others in the church and community. An intentional discipleship path leads people out into their community to influence others to know Jesus Christ. Many tools are available to help churches build a path that reaches, teaches, and releases people to be better disciples in the community.

As you plan your Fall small groups please consider allowing me to facilitate a class. I would love to bring some of the Discipleship resources to you for a mid-week small group either in the daytime or evening. It would be wonderful if I could engage in each area of our district and possibly have several churches join in the study. The two courses I would offer this time around are:

A Disciple's Path by James Harnish. A Disciple's Path is a program that guides individuals to take the next step in discipleship and become dynamic, engaged followers of Jesus Christ. The study combines a Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God's love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Participants will develop spiritual practices, discover their unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in their own lives, the lives of others, and the world. This is a 6 week course. Workbooks are \$14.

Connect! By Phil Maynard. This study is about putting ourselves in the right places for person to person building of relationships, for heart to heart making of new friends, and for soul to soul sharing our faith journey. Find out how easy it is to step out of your comfort zone and share Christ with those people you already know. This is a 6 week course. Workbooks are \$10

Congratulations to:

Ryan Oswald, who was ordained an Elder at the 2018 Annual Conference. Ryan serves Mint Spring UMC

Sarah Payne, who was commissioned as a Provisional Member at the 2018 Annual Conference. Sarah serves the Bethlehem-Jollivue Charge.

Jonathan Greer, who was licensed as a Local Pastor at the 2018 Annual Conference. Jonathan will serve the Epworth-Mountain Valley Charge.

Our Deepest Sympathy to:

The family of Mrs. Gwen Ruckman who passed away on May 20th. Mrs. Ruckman was a Clergy Widow on our District.

The Rev. Dr. John and Mrs. Benda Fisher on the death of their daughter, Carla Patterson on May 24th. Their address is 1129 Buttermilk Spring Road, Staunton, VA 24401.



Resources From Annual Conference 2018 are available

If you are interested in the happenings at Annual Conference or would like to use some of the videos such as the “Glory Sightings” that were shown at Annual Conference, you can find them on line at 222.vaumc.org/AC2018. You may also want to share the Rev. Tom Berlin’s presentation from Friday morning about the Commission on the Way Forward. All sessions of the Annual Conference are available on the livestream site. You may also find the number of kits that were collected and the amount of Offering that was taken.

Lay Servant Training

The 2018 Lay Servant Academy which was cancelled in March due to a power outage has been rescheduled for August 15-17 at the beautiful W.E. Skelton 4-H Center on Smith Mountain Lake. See [https://www.vaumc.org/LayServant Training](https://www.vaumc.org/LayServantTraining) for details and registration information.



ABOUT A WAY FORWARD

As a Delegate to the 2019 Called General Conference of the United Methodist Church I am receiving constant information and much training. If you have a group at your church who would like to know more about the legislation, the process, or the content of what we will be voting on please contact me. Places I could speak would include UMM and UMW meetings, Sunday School classes, small groups, or special forums. Contact me at bethchristian@vaumc.org

Staunton District UMC

P.O. Box 1048
Fishersville, VA 22939

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Jason Byassee
Professor of Preaching,
Vancouver School
of Theology

**Influence 2018: Worship
Tuesday, October 30**

Woodlake UMC, 15640 Hampton Park Drive, Chesterfield VA 23832

Early Bird Registration: \$30 per person
Must Be Registered by September 26

Event Registration: \$40 per person, Registration Deadline October 22
Team discounts available

(Every 5th person free when registered together)

For more information and to register go to <www.vaumc.org/5talent>

Contact Us

We are here to equip and encourage our churches as they strive to do ministry in their unique communities.

Staunton District UMC
P.O. Box 1048
Fishersville, VA 22939

Physical Address:
26 Orr Dr., Fishersville

(540) 932-1055

StauntonDistrict@vaumc.org

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