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June 2018 Newsletter

## ***Looking Ahead ...***

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June 10 – Honoring our Graduates

June 15-17 – Virginia Annual Conference, Hampton Convention Center

(partial schedule is on page 3)

June 16 – Service for the Ordering of Ministry, 7:30 p.m. (Rev. Esther Agbosu will be ordained in this service. Everyone is invited to witness and celebrate!)

June 17 – Father's Day

June 24<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Suzanne's Last Service

## **From the Pastor's Pen**

**Isaiah 49:13-16** (Good News Translation)

<sup>13</sup> Sing, heavens! Shout for joy, earth! Let the mountains burst into song! The Lord will comfort his people; he will have pity on his suffering people.  
<sup>14</sup> But the people of Jerusalem said, "The Lord has abandoned us! He has forgotten us." <sup>15</sup> So the Lord answers, "Can a woman forget her own baby and not love the child she bore? Even if a mother should forget her child, I will never forget you. <sup>16</sup> Jerusalem, I can never forget you! I have written your name on the palms of my hands.

Three short years ago I was appointed to Bethany and started what I expected to be a six-year sojourn with you. As you know, however, my plans were derailed by an unrelenting health issue, and so next month I will go on Medical Leave until I finally retire in a few years.

What do you do when the unexpected suddenly confronts you? A serious medical problem or a terminal diagnosis? Loss of your job with no recourse? Older parents or children who are faced with a crisis that become your crisis, too? Loss of spouses and other family members?

Many of you have endured such losses and, in spite of the heartaches, you have weathered your sorrows and moved forward. Each of us handles grief differently, on our own timeline. There is no single "right" way to deal with loss, but most of us have stumbled on what works for us and enables us to handle our losses in grace-filled ways. Most of all, knowing that God's Spirit walks with us through dark and troubling times gives us a measure of comfort and peace.

I always hoped that I would respond to such difficulties with grace and dignity. However, over the past 18 months, I have discovered that I am not nearly as gracious and uncomplaining about physical difficulties as I thought I would be. As the symptoms of Cervical Dystonia emerged, I thought that surely I'd be able to surmount them and continue doing what I enjoy



doing as a pastor. After all, I'm working for God, and that ought to count for something, right? Or perhaps not!

As I wind down my 12 years as a full-time pastor in the UMC – plus my years of part-time ministry as an evangelist, associate pastor, producer of a daily radio broadcast in another denomination, co-founder of a non-profit ministry for full gospel women clergy, and time in seminary – I realize that I have served God in some capacity for over 40 years. In part because I haven't stayed as physically fit as I needed to, now my body is "talking" to me. (Some of you understand what I mean.)

Frankly, it is difficult to conceive of life outside of pastoring. I have prayed and wrestled with the discomfort of not knowing what is next in my life. This is going to be a big change for me! But after all of my prayers, tears, and internal arguments, I finally settled it in my mind that this is not the end of my service to God; it is just the beginning of a new season of life. I still do not know what direction my journey will take, but I have peace knowing that the same One who called me back in 1972 will guide me now and in the future. That peace is amazing!

How about you? Regardless of what you are facing in your life right now, I can assure you that God knows and cares. And while the next leg of your journey may not be what you anticipated, you can expect the love of God to accompany you and hold you close. As Isaiah wrote so many centuries ago, God says, "... I can never forget you! I have written your name on the palms of my hands." What a marvelous image! Can you imagine **your** name inscribed in the palm of the loving Creator's hand? That image invites us to see just how close God is to us throughout our lives. I pray that God's peace will settle your mind and show you a way forward through all that you are facing.

What a privilege to be on this journey together!

*Suzanne*

# 2018 Virginia Annual Conference

What's happening at Annual Conference? (selected events)

## Friday, June 15

9:00 am – Report on Commission on a Way Forward (Halls B, C)  
10:30 am- Laity & Clergy Sessions  
2:00 pm – Laity Address  
7:30 pm – A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion

## Saturday, June 16

8:30 am – Recognition of Retirees  
11 am – Worship & Annual Conf. Offering  
2-5 pm – Great Day of Service  
7:30 pm – A Service for the Ordering of Ministry

## Sunday, June 17

11:00 am – Worship; Fixing of the Appointments; Adjournment

## 2018 VA Annual Conference Special Offering

The 2018 Annual Conference offering goal is \$200,000, to focus on missional priorities in Cambodia, Brazil, Mozambique, Native Americans, Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico and Moscow.

Cambodia: \$50,000

Brazil: \$25,000

Mozambique: \$25,000

Native Americans: \$10,000

Cuba Recovery: \$25,000

Haiti: \$25,000

Puerto Rico Recovery: \$25,000

Moscow Seminary: \$15,000

For more information:

<https://www.vaumc.org/AC2018>

## 4 Cans 4 Conference 2018

Friends and Family in the Body of Christ,

I hope that you will offer a gift of **one or more 2-hour blocks of service**, helping to receive the canned and staple goods during the 2018 Virginia Annual Conference!



This is an opportunity for individuals, families, groups, and others to share in an important work, **receiving the gifts that are brought to the "4 Cans" truck at the Hampton Convention Center for the 2018 Virginia Annual**

**Conference.** You will take the food, "lightly" sort it, and see that it is put into the bins in the back of the truck! Nothing to it, really! Bring sunscreen, comfortable clothes and shoes, some cold Gatorade or Water, and lots of gratitude for all the gifts!

In 2017, Laity and Clergy brought nearly 10,000 pounds of food to share with those in need in the Peninsula area. In 2018, we hope to give at least that much to the **Peninsula Food Bank**, during their lowest "in-take" time, and enable them to help a great many ministries and providers feed children and families in the lower Virginia Peninsula region.

**Please bring at least 4 Cans of food - or 40!** Also needed are boxes of dry, staple goods, too! **DON'T** bring glass or home canned items, anything past its "die date," or cans that are damaged or leaking. **DO** bring good things to eat, like one can of each of the following - meat/fish; veggies/fruit; soup/stew; a Pop-Top can of nearly anything nutritious! Grits, flour, sugar, cereal, boxes of "Helpers" (think Hamburger!), cooking oil in a plastic jug, pancake mix and syrup, and more! All gifts will be gratefully received! And local Gift Cards, too.... Kroger, Food Lion, Harris-Teeter will all be welcomed, as will cash and checks (made payable to **Peninsula Food Bank**).

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Grace and peace.

Jim Earley, 4 Cans 4 Conference Coordinator, 2018

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



## Elise Archibald

was born on September 25, 1935 to Philoclee and Lucell Little in Somerton St. James, Jamaica, West Indies. She is the youngest of

two daughters. Elise began her education at Somerton Elementary School. Her fond childhood memories include that, at an early age, she was taught by her Aunt how to play the organ, which resulted in her playing musical hymns for the well-attended Sunday school classes at the Presbyterian church.

After graduating from high school, Elise pursued a career in the medical field and furthered her educational opportunities by attending and studying at a nursing school in London, England. After three years of study, she received her certification as a Registered Nurse, and further certified as a professional midwife specializing in pregnancy, childbirth and newborn care.

Elise met and married her late husband Patrick Archibald; they have one daughter, Dionne. They immigrated to the United States, where she continued her nursing career in New York City. After 46 years of nursing, Elise retired in 2002 and moved to Hampton, VA. Since 2003, she has been a member of Bethany United Methodist Church and is an active member of the United Methodist Women. She attends and participates in the Wesley Sunday School Class, Bible Study, and enjoys crafting with other members. Elise is a volunteer and supports all

of BUMC's activities and programs within the community.

Bethany Church is truly thankful for Elise!

## HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWS

The History Committee needs your help. We have many photos that don't have any names or dates. We would like the congregation to help with putting names and dates to the photos we have and also write a paragraph or two about what ever memory comes to your mind that you would love to share with the next generations to come.

We moved the History scrapbooks into the Genesis room. There are table and chairs, and there will be post-it-notes, paper, pencils and pens. Please stop by and reminisce through the many memory books but be careful in handling some. We may need to redo a few books that have seen better days.

If you write anything, please put your name on it, so if I have any questions, I can get back to you.

Thank you so much for all your time and help in this project. For any questions, please contact me.

~ Rita Honeycutt



## United Methodist Women

UMW's June meeting will be on **June 6**

at **10 a.m.** for a short planning

session, followed by our yearly lunch at

the Embassy Suites. All ladies are

invited to join us. Mark your calendars because

this is not our regular meeting time as that time

falls into the week of several Annual Conference

meals at Bethany.

## Bethany Knitters and Crocheters



Great News:

1. Knitting and Crocheting is now meeting weekly.
2. Learn to knit, crochet, or both. Knitting needles, crochet hooks and yarn are provided. Written/pictorial instructions and YouTube videos (including special help for lefties) will be provided.
3. Once you have the basics down, you can help with our Mission Project of slippers and lapghans for non-ambulatory veterans in the Hampton VAMC domiciliary.

Everyone is invited. There are no age restrictions. We now meet every Tuesday from 6:30-8 p.m. in Happy Hands Room 12. For additional information, please contact Alvia Lewis at 757-660-7749.

## Altar & Narthex Flowers for 2018

Reservations for Altar flowers are still available for these dates:

- November 11 (Veterans Day)



Reservations for Narthex flowers are available for these dates:

- June 3 and 24
- July 8 and 29
- August 5, 12, 19 and 26
- September 9 and 30
- October 7, 14 and 21
- November 4, 11 and 25
- December 9, 16 and 30

Our florist is Jeff's Flowers and the cost is **\$20.00 each**. Please call the church office for more information and to reserve your request.



## United Methodist Men

The BUMMs thank everyone who helped make the May Community Yard Sale a success! The BUMMS, UMW, Boy Scouts and all the vendors had a great day!

## Special Recognition at Bishop's Dinner

On May 15, Jim and Cindy Chaffin, Elaine Brimer, and Pastor Suzanne attended the Bishop's Dinner for Scouting. St. Luke UMC's fellowship hall was filled with United Methodist Scout Leaders, Scouts, and representatives from churches supporting Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. After a delicious meal, Bishop Sharma Lewis and others spoke about the important role scouting plays in preparing young lives to become morally and spiritually grounded leaders. Several awards were presented, including a medallion and certificate to our own Jim Chaffin for his work supporting scouting.



Congratulations, Jim!!

## Recipe Corner

*So many said they enjoyed my Beef & Bean Casserole at the church dinner on May 9, I am including it here. If you have a favorite recipe to share with your church family, please submit it to Rebekah Doggett, to include as space permits. Thank you!*  
~ Pastor Suzanne

### Beef & Bean Casserole

(Serves 8-12)

#### Ingredients:

1 can of Northern White Beans  
1 can of Kidney Beans  
1 can lima beans (butter beans)  
1-2 lbs. ground beef (*I use extra lean*)  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. bacon or 6 oz. Prosciutto (*I also use ham pieces or turkey bacon to reduce the fat content*)

1 small onion, chopped

#### Sauce:

4 Tbsp. Vinegar  
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce  
1 Tbsp. prepared yellow mustard  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup ketchup

Directions: Brown hamburger and onions; drain.

Add beans (undrained). Place mixture in baking dish.

Mix sauce in separate bowl and add to meat mixture.

Put bacon slices on top. (*Notes: I used Prosciutto for the church dinner, cut in small pieces and mixed in with everything else. If using bacon, I cook the bacon most of the way first, to remove much of the grease; you may use uncooked Turkey Bacon instead.*)

Refrigerate overnight if possible for flavor to get through the beans.

Bake 1 hour at 350°. Enjoy!

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## Craft Meeting

Hi, everyone! I want to take this time to thank everyone that has donated items that we may be able to use in crafting. Thank you to the Crafters that come to the meetings to share wonderful fellowship and creative inspiration.



For all those who would like to help the Crafters' mission but just don't have items to donate or just don't have the time to craft, we do accept monetary donations to help with the cost of buying some tools needed to do the work. Thank you for all your support.

Don't forget to stop by our bulletin board and check out the calendar for upcoming meetings. Have a great summer and happy crafting.

~ Rita Honeycutt

## Happy Hearts



The Happy Hearts enjoyed lunch together at Smithfield Station on May 24. We will not be meeting again until **September**. We will be discussing our programs for the Fall so please be thinking of a program you would like to share.

~ Mary Faulk

## Graduates

We are proud to share our graduates with you this year!

**Karel A. Curtis**, Raymond and Betty Archer's daughter, is graduating from American Sentinel University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

**Katelyn J. Curtis**, Raymond and Betty Archer's granddaughter, is graduating from Shenandoah University with Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Minors in Chemistry and Psychology. She has been accepted into the graduate program of the School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah University to get a degree in Pharmacology to become a Pharmacist.

**Kelsey A. Curtis**, Raymond and Betty Archer's granddaughter, graduated in December 2017 with a Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) from Edinboro University.

**Abram Davis** is graduating from Bethel High School. He is an acolyte here at Bethany and a loving member of the church. He plans to attend college at Norfolk State University to get a degree in Art Graphics and Design. Abram is the son of Curtis Davis.

**Courtney M. Levasseur** is graduating from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Nutrition, Food and Exercise and a Minor in Psychology. She will work this year with a physical therapy group and in the fall of 2019 will enter a program for a degree in Physical Therapy to become a Physical Therapist. Courtney is Raymond and Betty Archer's granddaughter.

**Heather McMillan** graduated from Thomas Nelson Community College with an Associate of Applied Science Degree with a Major in in Administrative Support Technology, Cum Laude; an Associate of Applied Science Degree with a Major in Administrative Support Technology  
June 2018



and a specialization in Medical Office Administration, Cum Laude; and a Medical Office Assistant Studies Program Certificate, Cum Laude. (Congratulations also to Heather's son, Rob, who has patiently seen his mom through her studies!)

Our wonderful organist, **Christian Ochillo**, graduated from Old Dominion University in December 2017, with a Bachelor's Degree in Health Science.

**Seth Santiago** is graduating from Bethel High School and will be joining the Air Force in the Fall. Seth is the son of Leilani Santiago and the grandson of Christine Santiago.

**Jennifer B. Sheridan**, Jeff & Rene Bartgis' daughter, graduated from North Carolina State University (NC State) with a Master of Arts in Sociolinguistics, and plans to continue as a federal employee working as an analyst for the U.S Army Special Operations Command.

**Alex Tucker** graduated from Virginia Tech on May 14, 2018 and is being commissioned in The Air Force as a First Lieutenant. Alex is Roy and Anne Tucker's grandson.

***Congratulations to all our Graduates!!***

## **Thank-you!**

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for all the prayers, visits, cards, food and phone calls. It meant so very much to us at the time of our granddaughter Colleen's passing.

Love & God Bless,  
Jim & Doris Morse & Family

Dear Bethany,  
You blessed me with so many Birthday wishes.  
Thank you!! A special thanks to the children and youth for the marigold plants and card.

~ Pastor Suzanne

## CHOICES

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money, or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy, or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

Today I can grumble about my health, or I can rejoice that I'm alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up, or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns, or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends or I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work or I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.

Today I can complain because I have to go to school or eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework, or I can feel honored because the Lord has provided shelter for my mind, body and soul.

Today stretched ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And there I am, the sculptor who get to do the shaping.

What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

Have a great day... unless you have other plans.

~ Author Unknown

Excerpt from *Pleasures from the Good Earth*

By the Craigsville Ruritan Club

Published 2001



## June Birthdays

- 1 Dick Crum, Henry Hoggard
- 2 June Neel
- 3 Lee Tucker
- 6 Janis Smith
- 8 Candace Belvin
- 10 Barney Faulk
- 13 Helen Westerman
- 15 Stacy Jansson
- 20 Terry Rosser
- 22 Mike Bowen
- 23 Jennings Sample
- 26 Erich Sample
- 28 Roy Tucker
- 30 Anne Pederson

(Note: If you have a June birthday or anniversary and are not on this list, please let the church office know. Thanks!)

## June Anniversaries

- 1 Cindy & Jim Chaffin
- 4 Dick & Joyce Crum
- 7 Don & Martha Steppe
- 13 Barney & Mary Faulk
- 19 Jennings & Ann Sample
- 21 Don & Pat Frederick
- 23 Jeff & Rene Bartgis
- 29 Carol & John Wilson
- 30 Paul & Eileen Holsinger

## JUNE 2018 EVENT CALENDAR

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 3  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  | Youth – 6 p.m.  |
| 5  | Youth – 6 p.m.<br>Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.                                    | Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.  |
|    | AA – 7 p.m.   | AA – 7 p.m.   |
| 6  | UMW Meeting – 10 a.m.<br>Yoga – 4:30 p.m.   | Yoga – 4:30 p.m.  |
| 10 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>Graduation Sunday                         | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                                  |
| 12 | Youth – 6 p.m.<br>Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.                                    | Pastor Suzanne's last service   |
|    | AA – 7 p.m.   | AA Group Anniversary – 5-9 p.m.   |
|    | York River District UMM's Night at the Ballgame – 6:55 p.m. at War Memorial Stadium | Youth – 6 p.m.  |
| 13 | Yoga – 4:30 p.m.<br>Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group – 6 p.m.                   | Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.  |
|    |   | Clergy Moving Day for the Virginia Conference (Pastor Esther arrives!!) |
|    |   | Yoga – 4:30 p.m.  |

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### Virginia Annual Conference Events

#### Hosted at Bethany UMC

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|----|--|
| 14 | Bishop & Cabinets Dinner – 5-8 p.m.  |
| 15 | Asian American Ministers Banquet – 5:30-7 p.m.   |
| 16 | UMM VA Conf. Breakfast – 6:30-8:30a.m.<br>Duke Alumni Lunch – 12 p.m.<br>Va. Reconciling Ministries Network Dinner – 5:30-7 p.m. |

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**A Service for the Ordering of Ministry – 7:30 p.m.** (Pastor Esther Agbosu will be ordained in this service. Please join us!)

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| 17 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>Father's Day |
| 18 | Trustees Meeting – 9:30 a.m.                           |
| 19 | Finance Meeting – 6 p.m.                               |