



Report of 2011 Virginia Annual Conference Theme: Being Christ to others: Snapshots of the Kingdom

By Rick White and Cindy Cadieux

As a first-time attendee, Rick was impressed by the variety of Virginia Methodists' mission-work, both in America and abroad, as displayed at numerous booths set up in the Exhibition Hall. Many churches have 'adopted' missions similar to Great Bridge's in El Salvador. One group from Brazil flew a contingent of mission-children to the conference, who sang on stage in Portuguese and English for the delegates. A 'bus-load' (literally!) of college-aged youth was present and active throughout the conference. These young people ran the Wednesday night Laity Gathering meeting, witnessing about their faith and works. Several made a presentation Saturday concerning fostering ministries with youth and took questions from the floor. To learn more about global ministries of the United Methodist Church (UMC) go to www.10-fold.org.

Rev. Danny J. Kesner
Senior Pastor

Rev. Janet Allen
Associate Pastor

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
757-482-1049
Fax: 757-482-0432

Email
greatbridgeumc@verizon.net

Website
www.greatbridgeumc.com

Sunday Services
Traditional
8:00 and 11:00 AM
&
Contemporary
9:30 AM

The Rev. Dr. Sam Wells from The Divinity School at Duke University, N.C. gave two powerful sermons during the weekend to advise individuals and churches on how to deal with indifference and hostility, re-framing our typical responses to achieve a greater good for God. We were reminded that "we live before the presence of God" at all times. The Lake Junaluska Singers and a talented praise band entertained and uplifted attendees throughout the four-day event. Delegates were chosen for Jurisdictional and General Conferences to be held in the spring and summer of 2012. There were services of recognition for more than 40 new retirees, remembrances of clergy who had passed on during the previous year, and ordering of new clergy. Of the latter group, 25 persons were licensed as local pastors, 20 commissioned as provisional members and 19 ordained as elders in the United Methodist church.

Business-wise, 18 resolutions were discussed and approved or denied by votes of the body of delegates. The Report of the Council on Finance and Administration generated much discussion with regard to insurance costs, medical expenses, and retirement benefits for clergy. Our UMCs generally have aging populations- the average age is 60, one speaker stated.

We at Great Bridge are blessed to have a thriving, committed youth ministry. "Young people are not the church of the future; they are the church of today" (www.gbod.org). The conference stressed the importance of the inclusion of youth in as many areas as possible to prepare them for future leadership roles. A new resource titled Leadership Lab is available at www.gbod.org. November 27, 2011 is United Methodist Student Day. You can support United Methodist Student Day with a donation that will provide scholarships and loans to deserving United Methodist students. For more information, visit www.umcgiving.org/giveUMSD.

*Do you feel like
the storms of
life are rocking
your boat?
Think of the
sailboat: The
stronger the
winds, the
sooner it can
find refuge in
the harbor.*



Serving FROM THE HEART

During the past month, you received a *Serving from the Heart* packet that both identifies and describes the many ministries and activities of our church. Each person is asked to prayerfully consider how his or her gifts can be used to serve God and neighbor (community and world) through our community of faith. If you haven't done so, please take a moment or two to consider how God would like for you to use your gifts. Then, simply complete your card and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it off in the church office. We look forward to serving along side of you.

*Congratulations to
JoBeth Carbaugh and Jason Smith
who were united in marriage on July 30, 2011.*

*With
Sympathy*

*Rebecca Brannock, loss of her mother.
Bill & Dot Waters, loss of their nephew, Terry Waters.
Dick & Esther McGuire, loss of daughter, Deborah.
Nader & Paulette Oteifa, loss of Paulette's father, Bill Surring.
Tom & Cheryl Graham, loss of Cheryl's mother, Dot Kirby.*



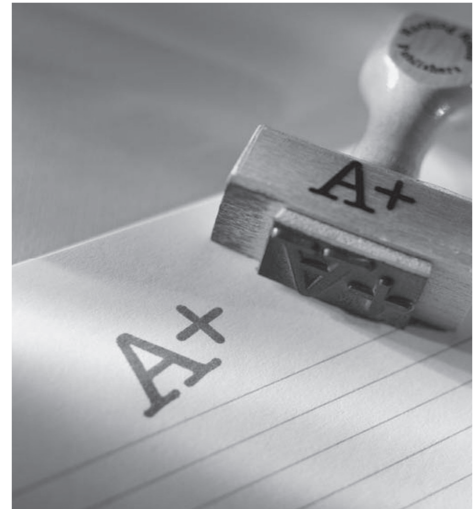
UMW Salad Supper

Tues., Aug. 16th
at 5:45 p.m.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend.
Please call Sandra Cotten at 439-1050 to
place a reservation.

Get Smart

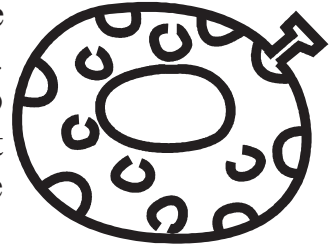
Will have an informational meeting on
Tuesday, Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. in room 112
to prepare for the upcoming school year.



Prayer Shawl Workshop

There will be no Prayer Shawl workshops in August. I want you all to keep creating beautiful shawls, baby sweaters, hats or what ever you are working on. We do have twenty four or more on hand so if you know of someone who could use the comfort of our Shawls please let me know, and I will get it to you. I praise God and thank HIM, for the many hands that worked prayerfully on this project for "**five years on August the 27th.**" We will get together again in September. Call me if you have any ideas about times or days changes. Barbara Kline 482-2342.

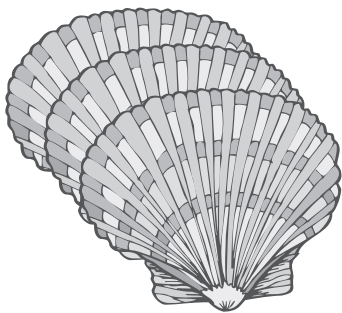
The Circle of Love is looking for sponsors for a float-a-thon. The float-a-thon will take place Sat., Aug. 6th from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Funds raised will help Marley, a 6yr. old with Type 1 diabetes, to purchase a diabetic medical alert dog. You can learn more about Marley's story at www.marleysalertdog.yolasite.com. For more information contact Carolyn Gibbs at 482-5307.



Handbell Players Needed for The Solid Rock Ringers



If you are interested in playing handbells please contact Denise by email at gbumcmusic@verizon.net or at 482 - 1049. This group normally meets on Monday's from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Youth and Adults welcomed!



A Baptism seminar led by Rev. Kesner will be held on Sunday, September 18th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference room located in the office.

Parents of children planning for baptism are invited to attend. Please call the church office at 482-1049 to register.

“Take Me Out To the Ballgame...”

The Master’s Men will be singing the National Anthem at a Tide’s ballgame in August. Watch your weekly bulletin for the date.

Please submit bulletin announcements by Wednesdays at 12 noon.

The deadline for the September newsletter is Wednesday, August 24.



**American Red Cross Blood Drive
here at GBUMC
Tuesday, September 20, 2 - 7 PM.**

Coming Soon!

Lay Speaker
Training Event
Friday, October 14 & Saturday, October 15
Friday 6 - 9:30 p.m. & Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Community UMC
1072 Old Kempsville Rd. Va. Beach



*Colossians 3:15
 "Let the peace of
 Christ rule in your
 hearts, since as
 members of one
 body you were
 called to peace."*

Hands of Hope Mission Sept. 8 - 11. Make check payable to UMW. All ladies are welcome to attend this hands on mission trip. Contact Sandra Cotten at 439-1050 for additional information.

Each UMW lady is asked to bring to the Salad Supper school supplies or backpacks for the Wesley Community Service Center . Also, table top games and crafts can be used at their coffee house. This is one of the UMW mission projects that we support.

Upcoming Events

- ~ August 14 - UMW Sunday*
- ~ Tuesday, August 16 - UMW Salad Supper*
- ~ Sept. 6 - Planning meeting at 6:45 p.m. in room 136*
- ~ Sept. 8 - 11 Hands of Hope Mission Trip to West Virginia*

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK



Mark your Calendar!
October 3 - 8

Meeting Dates

Circle of Faith

2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM in room 112.

Mission Project: Women's Division of the Salvation Army.

Friendship Circle

1st Monday of the month at 10 AM at various homes.

Mission Project: BabyCare

Circle of Grace

1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in room 136 or at various homes.

Mission Project: CHIP for first time MOMs

Circle of Light

2nd Tuesday of the month at noon in room 119.

Mission Project: Lighting the Way to Education at Linden Elementary in Norfolk

Circle of Love

3rd Monday of the month at 7 PM in various homes.

Mission Project: Great Bridge Food Closet

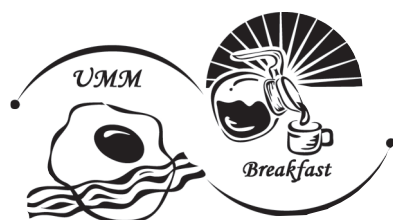
Kay Reel Circle

3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM.

Mission Project: Angel's Soldiers

All ladies are welcome to visit any of the circles. Please call the church office to verify meeting locations. Child care can be provided if necessary.

The Great Bridge United Methodist Men would like to congratulate Aubrey Hogge, Crystal Vaughan, Jordan Chandler, Karen Gray, and Anna Louise Hawkins as this year's recipients of the Jim Earley Memorial Scholarship Fund.



Sunday, August 21 at 6:45 AM

Come out enjoy breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

The New ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT Churches

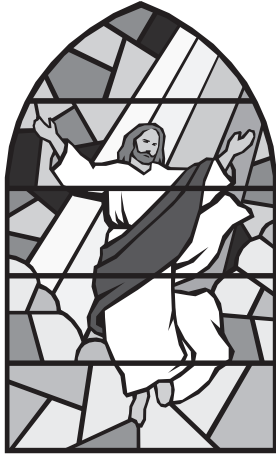
(C)=Chesapeake (N)=Norfolk (P)=Portsmouth (S)=Suffolk (VB)=Virginia Beach

Aldersgate (N)	Ebenezer (S)	Memorial (VB)	Saint Andrew's (P)
Asbury (VB)	Epworth (N)	Messiah (C)	Saint John's (N)
Asbury-Cradock (P)	Fairmount Park (N)	Miles Memorial (N)	Saint Luke's (VB)
Baylake (VB)	First (N)	Monumental (P)	Saint Mark (P)
Beech Grove (S)	Foundry (VB)	<i>The Bridge (P)</i>	Saint Paul's (C)
Bethel (VB)	Francis Asbury (VB)	Mount Pleasant (C)	Salem (VB)
Broad Street (P)	Ghent (N)	New Creation:	Sandbridge (VB)
Centenary (P)	Good Hope (C)	Aldersgate Campus (C)	Scott Memorial (VB)
Charity (VB)	Great Bridge (C)	Grace Harbor Campus (C)	Tabernacle (VB)
Chesapeake Ave. (C)	Haygood (VB)	Nimmo (VB)	Thalia (VB)
Christ (N)	Heritage (VB)	Norfolk (N)	<i>The Gathering (VB)</i>
Colonial Ave. (N)	Hickory (C)	Norview (N)	Virginia Beach (VB)
Community (P)	Indiana (C)	Oak Grove (C)	Virginia Korean (S)
Community (VB)	Jolliff (C)	Oaklette (C)	Wesley Chapel (S)
Cottage Place (P)	Knotts Island (KI)	Park Place (N)	Wesley Memorial (N)
Courthouse (VB)	Larchmont (N)	Portlock (C)	Zion-Grace (N)
Covenant (C)	Lynnhaven (VB)	PA Plaza (VB)	West End (P)
Deep Creek (C)	McKendree (N)	Resurrection (VB)	



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Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

Worship Services

Traditional: 8:00 a. m. &
11:00 a. m.
Contemporary: 9:30 a.
m.

DANNY J. KESNER
Senior Pastor
Home: 410-9312

JANET ALLEN
Associate Pastor
Parsonage: 389-5499

Church Office: 757-482-1049