

# WESLEYAN DISTRICT WITNESS

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

I am sure that we all try to catch up on the national and world news sometime during the day. I want to know what is going on just as anyone else. But, I have to admit there is something "going on" that, as a minister, I do not like. Have others perceived it? It is this: in the life of our nation, almost on every level- political, religious, secular, and economical-(and it is happening within us who believe in the Lord, too) there is a lack of simple kindness and compassion toward one another, and this leads to a mistrust in the motives of one another.

Scriptures that came to my mind include Eph. 4:32, "Be KIND to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, for in Christ God has forgiven you." Gal. 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, KINDNESS .. .." Col. 3:12, Therefore, as God' s chosen people, holy and dearly loved , clothe yourselves with COMPASSION AND KINDNESS .. .."

In these days of political disagreements, economic problems including unemployment , and churches competing instead of cooperating with each other, we need to hear these words again! In John Wesley's sermon "Caution Against Bigotry," he spelled out the warning against the sectarian spirit that divides the people of God and keeps Christians from understanding that God is present and working in fellowship and parties and denominations other than their own. I know Wesley was speaking more of religious/church attitudes, but these attitudes spill over into our everyday life as citizens. The definition of bigotry is "too strong attachment to our own party, opinion, church, and religion ." This bigotry is the root of unkindness and lack of compassion toward one another in our society, and it does affect all levels, especially in the political and religious life of our nation at present.

Wesley even insisted that if we would avoid all bigotry, we must acknowledge the finger of God and rejoice in another's work, even if our opinions clash! Especially, as Christians and believers , we should be an example of what it means to be kind and compassionate in this world of hatefulness and bigotry. We would do well to return to the Catholic Spirit (Title of Wesley ' s Sermon, means " universal " ) and regain the teaching "If your heart is as my heart (in loving the Lord God and all of humankind) , then give me your hand."

Our differences of opinions, whether they are political, religious, or denominational , must not stand in the way of love for one another in the Lord. One may be a Democrat, another a Republican, and they may differ greatly in their political understandings and leanings, but if we are a Christian Democrat and a

Christian Republican, (or Libertarian, or Independent , etc.) then being the Christian takes precedent over the political party. It doesn't negate it, but it does call us who believe to a higher standard in how we deal with one another. Let's start over. Remember Christ's call in our lives to be kind and compassionate to one another. Christ Jesus is our Alpha and Omega: everything else in our lives must be subject to Him. We are still in the season of Easter- Resurrection- New Life and will soon be celebrating Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers that day and is still being poured out upon those who will turn to Christ Jesus for salvation. Christ living in and through us, by the power of that Holy Spirit, must be enough to keep us in love with one another! And then, "They, (the world) will know we are Christians by our love ."

**Grace and Peace be with you**

**Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan, D.S.**





### Birthdays and Anniversaries for MAY

1	K Almond	B	22	Martin Wine	B
3	Eliana McCutcheon	B	23	George & Cheryl Bramble	A
5	Mike Hinkle	B		Jackie & Sam Chambers	A
6	Robert (Bob) Carr	B		Jeffrey Kanode	B
7	Beverly Warner	B	24	Kenneth Kendall	B
	Brian & Sandra Boley	A	26	Verl Simmons	B
11	Jack Bohman	B		Jeff & Lynn Zickefoose	A
12	Clarice Jenkins	B	27	Wilma McKee	B
	Dan Kimble	B		David & Gloria Fisher	A
14	Calvin McCutcheon	B		Susan Seders	B
15	James Murphy	B	28	Bob & Adele Cole	A
18	Pan Ritchie	B		Dwayne & Elizabeth Brown	A
	Brian Plum	B		Elizabeth Brown	B
21	Betty Jackson	B	29	Judy Warner	B
	Rex Tenney	B		Bonnie & Mike Starkey	A
	Vickie Bowen	B	31	Carolyn Merrill	B
	Jeff Zickefoose	B		Josie Tenney	B

### Birthdays and Anniversaries for JUNE

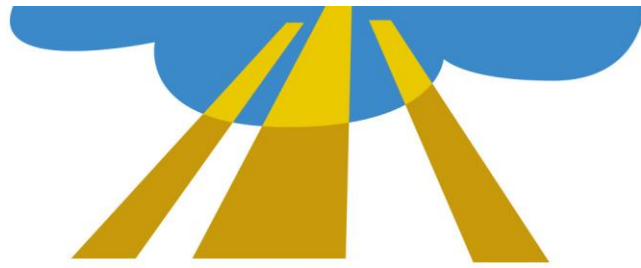
2	Kelly Kanode	B	16	Winnie Smith	B
	Dallas & Brenda Forren	A	17	Cindy Bohman	B
3	Michael & Alexia Burge	A		Dixie McCormick	B
4	Billy Carr	B	18	Ben & Sue Guido	A
	Sandra McCutcheon	B	19	Byron & Vicki Bukovesky	A
7	Thomas Merrill	B		Hugh & Judy Murphy	A
8	Vaughn James	B		Herb & Phyllis Coston	A
9	Thelma Carr	B		Jerry & Kathy Boyce	A
10	Hugh Murphy	B		Doug Smailes	B
13	Rodger & Dixie McCormick	A	20	Bill & Rebecca Calhoun	A
14	David Bowen	B	23	Don & Glenda Fitzwater	A
15	Roger McKee	B	24	Alvie Loyd	B
16	Cliff & Mary Ann Schell	A	25	Paul Thompson	B
25	Steve & Martha Meadows	A	26	Greg & Lisa Godwin	A
27	Jack & Cindy Bohman	A	27	Ken & Charlea Ramsey	A
28	Effie Simmers	B	28	Betty Miller	B
			30	Mark Smith	B

***Parish Coordinators are asked to send Birthday and Anniversary Cards to our pastors and families.***

• **Announcements!!**

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- May 6 COME at Quiet Dell UMC
- May 8 Retirees Luncheon at WVWC 11:30 a.m.
- May 10-11 Cabinet, Charleston
- May 13 New Appointments, Pastors/PPRC Chairs  
WVWC Social Hall/ Beginning Well: Guiding Pastors  
Transition. 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- May 20 Strawberry Parade/Buckhannon
- May 21 District Conference Chapel Hill UMC, 3-5 p.m.
- May 22-24 Cabinet, Charleston
- May 25 Mandatory Pastors meeting, WVWC,  
Consultation on Substance Abuse, \$15 Registration  
9:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- May 26 Start Summer Hours, Close Noon on Friday
- May 29 Memorial Day, Office Closed
- June 5-7 Cabinet, Buckhannon, Pre-Conference
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- Jun 8-11 Annual Conference, Wesley Chapel, WVWC
- Jun 15-16 Cabinet, Post-Conference meeting
- Jun 22 Move Out for Pastors
- Jun 23 Move In for Pastors
- Jun 22-25 Rally on the Mountain/Cannan Valley  
Conference Center/ \$60/group. Need 25 kids.
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- July 4 Fourth of July, Office Closed
- July 20-22 Mission U WVWC, UM Women
- July 24-28 Cabinet Mission Trip.
- August 19 Emergency Response Training, Quiet Dell UMC  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Flyers during July
- August 24 Clergy Picnic, Quiet Dell 5:30 gather/6:00 meal.
- Please inform your congregations or representatives, or Lay Servants of meetings





# GOD HEALS

Please remember all those in our district who are dealing with illness, death, and other personal situations with family and friends. Trust I have not missed anyone who should be on this list. Please let me know.

Remember these in prayer: Thelma Carr, wife of Billy Carr; Beverley and Ron Brown; Cliff and Mary Ann Schell; Sam and Nancy Cale III; Mitch and Mary Ann Griffin. David Thompson, awaiting knee surgery. Keep David and Jane both in prayer as they have had Pneumonia, but on the road to recovery. Remember Jane and her family in the loss of her Father, Arthur Smith.

Jerry Boyce: They feel there is nothing more they can do because of his situation being so far advanced. They are going to draw up a plan of treatment to keep him comfortable. He has a nurse coming in several times a week. His kidneys are not operating as well as they should either. Please remember Kathy as she takes care of Jerry. Chris Stadelman (Paul's son); Bonnie Starkey; Josie Tenney; George Hamrick. Janis Hensley as she struggles with dementia and memory problems. Vaughn James and Mark James in the loss of Patricia James.

Keep the Cabinet in prayer as they make new appointments across the Conference.

Regina Rodrigues and her family in the loss of Joe Rodrigues on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ralph Miller who had stints put in in April. Billy Carr after back surgery April 12. He is doing well. Jeff Zickefoose, stomach surgery on April 10.

**Pray for pastors leaving our District for other appointments and for the new pastors coming into our district. Please make the effort to welcome the new Pastors into our Wesleyan family. Those who are leaving, we thank you for your years of service in this district and trust your new appointments will be where the Lord wants you to be at this time in your lives.**

## **Announcements**

**Please remember to register for the Clergy Consultation on Substance Abuse. Cost is \$15 to cover food and snacks. Meeting is at WVWC, Buckhannon, May 25, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Go to [www.wvumc.org](http://www.wvumc.org) and there will be a link on the calendar to take you to the WV Council of Churches website where you can sign up and pay.**

**God has called us to reach out to the suffering and those addicted who are suffering and we need the church to step up to the plate and make a difference in their communities and in our state of WV. We can make a difference!**

**Christ with us, we will make a difference.  
This is mandatory to Pastors and we trust many of the Assigned Supplies will also attend.**

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE MAY 21, 2017**

**This will be held at Chapel Hill UMC  
Buckhannon, 3-5 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.  
ALL District Representatives are to attend.  
Also, Pastors, notify all Lay Servants to attend  
To be recognized and take their oath as  
Lay Servants.**

**WESLEYAN DISTRICT'S NEW WEBSITE!!!**

**PLEASE VISIT US**

**[www.wesleyandistrictumc.org](http://www.wesleyandistrictumc.org)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### TREASURERS!!

### **SOME OF YOU ARE STILL SENDING PROMO FUNDS TO THE CONFERENCE TREASURER!!**

All **PROMO FUNDS** for Wesleyan District Office  
Should be mailed to: P.O. Box 230, Buckhannon, WV 26201  
And be made out to **Wesleyan District Office.**

This also includes any money for **Ministerial Education Funds (MEF)** for 2017. Please send to  
Buckhannon office.

We appreciate your effort to pay these askings each year

At last year's Charge Conference treasurers should have been given a sheet with the Fair Share Apportionment broken down into 3 categories and below that was the District Promotional Amount for that church.

When you have Charge Conference this Fall, please be sure to get new sheets for the year of 2018 from your Pastor. Some treasurers who do not know the amount for the year have sent the same amount as the previous year. The amounts are NOT usually the same from year to year. They are figured on the previous year's salary and multiplied by 1.75%.

**14 Churches have already paid 100% of their Fair Share Apportionment.**

**72 churches are on track or above.**

**41 churches have not paid anything on their Apportionments.**

**Please encourage your churches to start paying since we are in the 5<sup>th</sup> month of 2017. It is a good time to catch up before summer vacations!**

Any monies for **Fair Share apportioned by the Conference** should be mailed to the  
**WV Conference Treasurer** at  
P.O. Box 2469, Charleston, WV 25329.

Please keep your churches informed as to where they stand for the year.  
Balances are sent to pastors on a monthly basis of all that has been paid.

**Travel for Pastors this year is: 50 cents per mile. Please tell Treasurers.**

**Sherrie Walsh is offering:**

**Rest and Renewal Retreat at Grateful Acres**

**Brochure is attached. Plan your R and R now with Sherrie. Phone: 304-472-0514**

# **Lay Servant Academy**

**We had an excellent Lay Servant Academy on April 29 at Chapel Hill UMC. It started with Registration at 7: 30 a.m. and continued until 4:00 p.m.**

**At 8 a.m. there was worship with Mary Ellen Finegan giving the message on being a Lay Servant and ending with a Communion service before beginning classes.**

**Thanks goes to Brian Boley for his piano music and for the singing of Elizabeth Elem and Hilda Carter. Classes presented were:**

**Intro to Lay Servant ministries (Basic)**

**Advanced Lay Servant Training (Go Preach)**

**Leading Worship**

**Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts.**

**Evaluations back on these classes and teachers were excellent.**

**Thanks to our teachers: Brian Boley, Helen Oates, Paul Stadelman, and Jim Minutelli.**

**Plans are being made for a joint Academy on September 23 at Bridgeport UMC, with MonValley and Wesleyan Districts. Class on Polity by J.F. Lacaria and Ken Krimmel from the Conference will be held and possibly other classes are to be included, but will be announced at a later date.**

**Please put this date on your calendar and plan on attending.**

**Also, give consideration to going through the on-line modules and becoming a Certified Lay Minister. As of June 1, 2018 there will be no more Assigned Supplies in the Conference. We need Certified Lay Ministers since we are having a shortage of Ministers. CLM's would be under the supervision of an Elder but would serve a church or charge the same as Assigned Supplies are now doing. Jim Minutelli, Director, Lay Servant Ministry (CLM), can give you more information on this program.**



# So it's your **first** visit to Annual Conference?

## An Unofficial Guide for Newbies (and Reminders for Seasoned Veterans)

*By Rev. Joe Webb*

Annual Conference is a great time for United Methodists to meet, network, and worship together amidst the business of our connection.

But for first-timers, it can sometimes be confusing and intimidating. It can be hard to figure out where you're supposed to be and when. Which sessions are for lay people and which are for clergy? Who is and isn't allowed to vote? What is required for delegates and what is optional?

As a first-time attendee last year, I faced all of those questions and more. And so I offer you the following Unofficial Guide for Newbies (and Reminders for Seasoned Veterans):

### 1. Read the Pre-Conference Journal

The number one thing you can do to prepare for your first visit to Conference is to familiarize yourself with the pre-conference journal. In it, you will find all of the schedules of events and activities, plus helpful information on parking, lodging, etc. You'll also be able to familiarize yourself with all of the legislation that will be presented ahead of time to help you be an informed delegate or observer.

(Pro Tip #1: You can download the journal on your phone or other mobile device for easy, instant access!)

### 2. Ask questions!

Our United Methodist connection is full of wonderful, helpful people. So don't be afraid to ask for help! If you don't know where you're supposed to be, or don't understand something that's going on, ask someone.

(Pro Tip #2: Conference Communication Team members will be identifiable by their official polo shirts and are ready and willing guides!)

### 3. Don't miss worship

You've probably already heard this from friends or colleagues who have attended Conference in the past, but the worship services are the highlight of the week. Every aspect of worship design has been well-planned, and the worship experiences will lift your heart and spirit. Don't miss the daily opportunities to encounter Jesus in worship!

(Pro Tip #3: arrive early for worship services to network with colleagues.)

**4. Tip for veterans: watch your language!** Specifically, be aware of the insider language we often use that we don't realize can be a barrier to new attendees. Try to avoid the acronyms

(DCOM, DS, BOOM, GBOD) and terminology (lead teams, Wespath, commissioning vs. ordination, etc.) that might confuse someone attending for the first time. Better yet, be willing to define and explain terms to help folks better understand our work!

(Pro Tip #4: Remember that good communications are essential to building relationships!)

Whether you're attending Conference for the first time or the 51st time, remember that the strength of our church is our connection. Make the effort to get to know people from areas and ministries other than your own. The friendships we form at Conference benefit all of our ministries as we seek to be a Christ-led, spiritual breath of fresh air that changes the world!

Pastors

Michael Starkey, Jr. Chris Starkey, & Rebecca Bolner  
And family

Invite you to attend the renewal of vows of their parents

Bonnie and Michael Starkey, Sr.

Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 7:00 p.m.

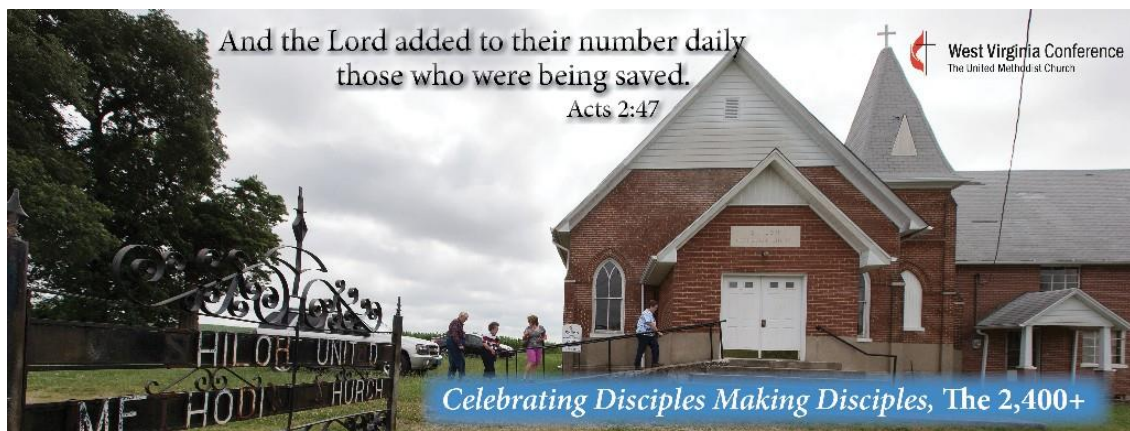
At

Vincent Memorial United Methodist Church  
401 Indiana Avenue  
Nutter Fort, WV 26301

**Join us for a reception in the fellowship hall following the service.**



*Love Never Ends*



### **Big Isaac UMC - Wesleyan District**

The Big Isaac UMC can be found continuing fellowship after Sunday services at various restaurants in the area. Our lunch group may be as few as 3 or 4 but sometimes as large as 20.

On Sunday, April 30, we visited the Fairview Diner in Smithburg (West Union) with 13 of our congregation joining the group. When we first started this lunch tradition we would see families enjoying lunch together and sometimes one other church group. Over the years we have seen more churches gathering for lunch after services - hopefully we have been the inspiration for other churches to continue their Sunday fellowship over lunch. On occasion we have asked friends from other congregations to join us so that they didn't have to eat alone. We jokingly say that the Big Isaac Church runs on its stomach, but we are following Christ's example of breaking bread together.

Pictured: (left to right) Mona Lee Morgan, Barbara Krafft, Susie Richards, Brenda Corder, Donnie Corder, Kenny Davis, MiMi Davis, Ruth Hayes, Alice Proper, Nancy Hall, Doug Hall, Butch Bennett, and Darlene Bennett.



For more information, contact Susie Richards at [dckid@frontier.com](mailto:dckid@frontier.com).

## **ANOTHER REMINDER!!!!**

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE!!!**  
**District Conference will be held at**  
**Chapel Hill UMC**  
**Sunday, May 21, 3-5 p.m.**

**There will be a freewill offering taken at the meeting.**  
**This money will go to Celebration of Mission Event.**  
**We were apportioned to raise \$20,000 from this District**

**Your help in raising all this money is greatly appreciated.**  
**The bulk of the Missions monies comes from this event.**  
**It is really a help to each of them in reaching people**  
**In need throughout West Virginia and our District.**  
**Your church may continue to raise funds during the rest of the year.**

Led by the Divine Shepherd  
By Leslie Kennedy

What a wonder to be led by the Divine Shepherd  
In our hearts and heads, in our lives and our church

What a miracle to be in relation with He  
To know that when you need to talk His ear is near

That when trouble falls on you, you do not need to wait  
To get through to the Divine, The Divine who loves you

Our world is an amazing place, Created by God with wonder and grace  
We ourselves are rather astounding too, but most amazing God's Son died for me and you

For us, the begotten Son of God died, so we can be made right  
With His Father whom he loves He did this because God loves us

He lived and He taught about love, about love, about God's love  
About God and what God is like, at least as well as mortal words can tell

Then after teaching us he died, He died for us; Sacrificial Lamb  
But more importantly than that, He rose again, alive once more!

What a joy, what a shock then, and evermore since after He rose  
He taught a little more and then, went to His Father finished with  
That terrible part of his great chore.  
I am glad that Jesus is divine. How else would he have the stamina  
To be our shepherd guiding us ever more.

Well, until God says that is enough, bring everyone home my Son.  
No one knows when that day is, so pay attention and follow our Shepherd!  
Amen

