



CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

The West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church

Issue # 4 • Sunday, June 11, 2017

New Ordinands: Disciples making disciples

The five men being ordained today were asked two questions:

1. Tell the conference a little about yourself, your context of ministry.
2. Who is a faith hero/mentor, and how did/does this person help you grow in your faith journey (in other words, who discipled YOU in faith)?

Here are their answers:

Jarrold Caltrider

I'm a 2009 graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College and a 2012 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. My wife and I have been married for six years and we just welcomed our beautiful daughter, Ella, into our family on May 9.



I grew up in Mineral Wells, where our family attended Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. My parents and grandparents instilled within me at a very young age the value of living a life of faith.

I came to know and understand the love of God through family and church family who revealed God's love to me through the way they nurtured me and lived their lives.

I enjoy spending time in our beautiful West Virginia hills hunting, fishing, camping, etc. Some things I love doing: watching *The Office*, listening to Mumford and Sons, cheering on the Dallas Cowboys.

I'm currently serving the Sandyville Charge, which is made up of three wonderful congregations: Comet, Independence and Sandyville. We're a rural charge in Jackson County within the Little Kanawha District. As I start my fifth year here, I have been blessed to be doing ministry with the congregations I serve.

One of the churches I serve has an abundance of children and it's a joy to watch them grow in their love and knowledge of God as they are nurtured and cared for by the congregation.

One of my faith mentors throughout my young adult life has been Rev. Angela Gay Kinkead.

Rev. Kinkead was the Dean of the Chapel when I began my undergraduate studies at WV Wesleyan and was, as well as continues to be, someone who I consider a mentor in the faith.

I remember being a young college student and having many

conversations with Rev. Kinkead about the intersections of faith, life, politics, etc. She was someone who would openly listen and authentically and compassionately respond with words of advice, comfort, hope, or help.

I trusted not only that Rev. Kinkead cared deeply about my life, but that she had invested time and energy into me that helped me grow and develop into the person and pastor I am today. She helped me understand what it means to build relationships and to engage people critically on matters of faith.

I continue to look to Rev. Kinkead as a mentor, colleague, and friend, knowing that her impact on my life is wide-reaching and has left lasting impressions.

Corbet May

I was born, raised, and educated in the West Virginia Annual Conference and have been connected to the United Methodist Church all my life. I am currently serving in Craigsville in Nicholas County.



When entering into the ministry and discerning my call, the decision became clear — the ministry and calling from God were a compass directing me into the next phase of my life. I followed God through the steps of ministry: candidacy, pulpit, and seminary.

I feel that God can and does direct you to the best life that He has prepared for you. In essence, God makes life enjoyable when you incorporate Him in all your decisions. Therefore, I try to live my life through the opportunities that God presents and to seek his help in overcoming the obstacles of life.

I consider Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas to be one of my mentors. He was an author and former president of Asbury Theological Seminary.

Dr. Kalas served the United Methodist Church and enriched the lives of others who answered the call into ministry. He simply made himself an open vessel for God to use and, in doing so, guided me into the knowledge that there is always room to grow with God. I continue to follow his sage advice in developing my ministry.

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Jonathan Moon

I am a middle child, a pastor's kid, and an army brat. I embrace all three of these titles because I know I am foremost a child of God.

I have been blessed with an incredible family. They have taken me all over the world and brought me to the wonderful state of West Virginia. It is here that my family has grown to include the West Virginia Conference and all the people at Hoyes and McHenry where I currently serve as a pastor. Grace has brought me thus far and grace will continue to take me forward.

This picture is taken from a young man's baptism. All the children present are his friends from the community who had never been to our church before. They came because they wanted to share this moment with him and because of that they encountered the love of God present in the sacrament of Baptism.

The close relationships that this community shares provides opportunities for people to encounter God's holy presence. It is a great blessing and privilege that I've witnessed the Holy Spirit bringing people into a deeper relationship with each other and Jesus Christ. As the wonderful hymn by John Fawcett proclaims, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love . . ."

My faith hero/mentor is my father. He always sought to give more of himself by emulating the perfect son of God, Jesus Christ. It is because I witnessed this day after day for 35 years that he inspires me so much!

My father taught me what it means to love God and love our neighbor through his devotion and willingness to extend and receive grace. I saw him listen, teach, question, search, and love in more ways that I could ever find words to describe.

I thank my father for putting up, teaching, encouraging, forgiving, and sharing with me his love of God.

Adam Ployd

I am originally from the Virginia Annual Conference, but don't hold that against me!

When I first attended conference in 2013 as my new wife's guest, I fell in love with the warm, intimate, worshipful spirit of the West Virginia gathering and felt moved by the Spirit to transfer my candidacy here.



Unfortunately, my vocation as a theological educator requires me to go where the few jobs happen to be. That's why Diane and I live in St. Louis now, where I serve as the Assistant Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Eden Theological Seminary. This context for ministry is rich and rewarding as I get to discuss the topics I love with students from a variety of backgrounds all looking to dedicate their lives to God's service.

Much of my call stems from the mentorship of Rev. Doug Forrester (from that OTHER Virginia conference) who came to my church when I was a teenager and he was fresh out of Duke Divinity School.

Like any good adolescent, I was questioning many things about faith, scripture, and the church. Doug not only allowed me to question, he also offered me his own wealth of learning. He took me and my curiosity seriously and gave me solid meat to eat, rather than the weak broth we sometimes give to those who ask to be fed with something more. This inspired a love of theological education in me and taught me that faith need not be the enemy of learning.

Christopher Scott

I grew up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. I attended Shepherd University where I gradually found myself pulled back to faith in Jesus Christ, and ultimately discerned my call to ministry.

Some of my most spiritually formative experiences occurred when I was in college. Through college and as a young adult, I was blessed to have gifted mentors.

It is truly an honor to serve as Chaplain/Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at West Virginia Wesleyan College. I get to see and experience the ways in which God is using our students to minister, to serve, and to lead, as well as walk with them as they discern where God is leading them in life.

I have several heroes and mentors who have been influential in my faith journey. One in particular is the Rev. Ed Grove, who ran a weekly community meal at Trinity United Methodist Church in Martinsburg. At a time when I was not particularly religious, I felt a passion to serve. It was through this service with others that I began re-connecting with my own religious faith and ultimately my own call to ministry.



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Today, faith comes full circle...

By Rev. Jake Steele

For many, it will be a moment cemented in memory forever; for a few families, however, it'll be utterly magical. Undoubtedly, on this day, faith communities tucked among the hills of West Virginia as far as Wellsburg to Welch and as wide as Point Pleasant to Petersburg will swell with pride as they cheer for the children they helped raise.

Make no mistake: For years leading up to this point, the incubators of faith built by the priesthood of all believers have nurtured, nursed and nourished ones who will vow themselves to a vocation that strives to do the same. And today at Wesley Chapel, in a sacred, Spirit-filled, reciprocal sort of cycle, the church will once again rejoice as some of her "children" celebrate the baptisms of their own little ones.

Ordinands Jonathan Moon and Jarrod Caltrider (Elder track), along with their spouses, Jenna Moon (to be commissioned as an Elder) and Breana Caltrider will enjoy two major events in time—at the same time: a service of ordination and commissioning as well as the baptisms of their son, Jayden Joseph Moon and daughter, Ella Rose Caltrider.

Think about it: The *poured water* at baptism paired with the *proclaimed word* at ordination. What an incredible coalescence of covenant, community and call! One cannot ponder it without appreciating its profundity.

Jenna Moon agrees.

"I am in awe of and completely humbled by this moment," said Jenna, who became a new mommy to Jayden shortly before she was approved for commissioning as an Elder. "Today I will celebrate the three most precious gifts in my life: my husband, my son and my calling. This unique experience reveals to me that God's timing is truly perfect and God's blessings always exceed my greatest expectations. God is good all the time and all the time God is good!"

Rev. Jonathan Moon said, "This will be a moment that my family remembers forever as my wife and son join me in proclaiming, 'Jesus Christ is Lord!' For us to stand with each other during these important moments will be a blessing we continually celebrate. The Holy Spirit has brought our family together, carried us to this point, and I know will always lead

us forward into the ever-present love of God."

Family, friendship, faith and the fidelity that exists between all of them find their confluence here in the water and the Word.

At baptism, kids—cradled in the arms of a community—are called as God's own and then committed to sojourn a path of faith that fashions followers of Jesus. When placed side by

side, baptism punctuates on one level what ordination validates at another: We're still children *cradled* by a community, *called* as God's own and *committed* as an elder or deacon to walk a path that fashions followers of Jesus...all of it tangibly felt by hands that baptize with water and bestow with authority; all of it wrought by the Holy Spirit; all of it a gift from God and all of it a reminder that we're part



of something bigger than ourselves, that ministry is never our own; it's a family affair.

Candidates who take vows at ordination can do so only because there was first a community of faith who took seriously the vows spoken at their baptism—to proclaim the good news, live like Jesus, surround them in love and forgiveness and soak them in prayer. The covenants made today are invariably built on the promises kept by the cloud of witnesses that came before.

Rev. Jarrod Caltrider speaks to such notions. "To share in the sacredness of this significant moment and to do it in Wesley Chapel, a place that has been foundational to my call to ministry, makes it even more meaningful," he said. "Both Ella's baptism and my ordination are vivid reminders of the life-changing grace of our God that is ever-present in our world. Just as I have been able to live into this calling of ordained ministry because I know to whom I belong, my prayer is that Ella will always know the God who, in her baptism, calls her precious and beloved."

Today faith comes full circle.... The proof is writ large in this service. As a member of the household of God and a fellow ordained clergy, I'm honored to be one of the kids of this blessed connection and happy to be one of the first faces to say, "Welcome to the family!"

Rev. Jake Steele is Pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, Wheeling.

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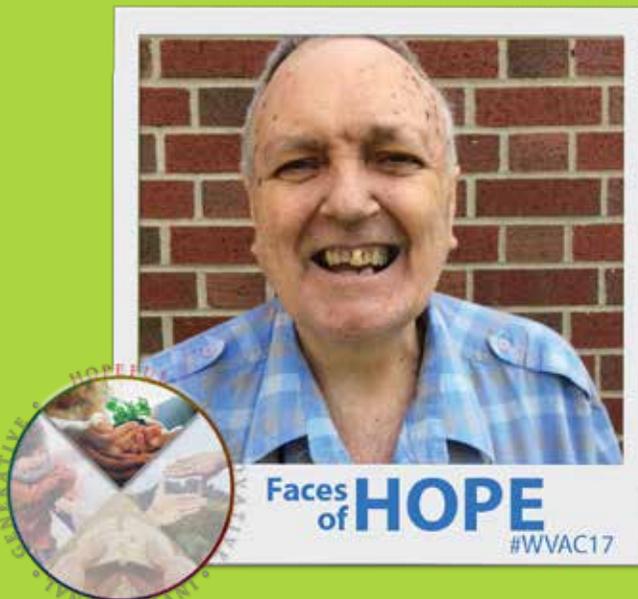


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What gives you hope?

"Working with the youth in the Scouting organizations and churches to mentor future leaders in our churches and communities."



Ralph Herron, 63, is a lay representative from the Rivesville-Highlawns Charge in the Mon Valley District and is the Conference Scouting Coordinator.

The Conference Circuit

PO Box 2313
Charleston, WV 25328
Voice: 304.344.8331
Email: wvumc@wvumc.org

Resident Bishop: Sandra Steiner Ball

Director of Connectional Ministries: Ken Kimmel

Communications Director: Deborah Coble

Communications Assistant: Whitney Cherry

Editor: George Hohmann

Publication Design: Joe Webb

Communications Chair: Cheryl George, Potomac Highlands

Conference Communications Team:

* Maria Wiblin, MonValley

* Brad Bennett, MonValley

* Jake Steele, Northern

* Ken Peters, Little Kanawha

* Jennifer Kniceley Sprouse, Wesleyan

Jonathan Nettles, Little Kanawha

Judy Pysell, Greenbrier

Carl Tribett, Northern

Dusty Merrill, MonValley

George Hohmann, Midland South

* At-large members