



# OCTOBER CIRCUIT

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*Bishop Steiner Ball, her daughters Sarah and Becky, and husband Rev. Barry Ball enjoying family time at the ball park.*

## Reaching 2,400 for Christ begins by spending time with the ones you love

*A word of hope and encouragement from Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball*

It seems like ages since the 2016 West Virginia annual conference session at West Virginia Wesleyan College. There have been floods – families and communities brought instantly into crisis, and this crisis continues and will continue for several years as we work toward recovery. There have been an alarming number of overdoses not only affecting the individuals involved, but families, friends, congregations. There's been the controversy in the denomination over the issue of human sexuality, marriage, and leadership.

Amid all the stuff going on we could be easily tempted to lose our focus on reaching 2,400+ for Christ. Let's not forget the mission we have been given by Christ. More than ever, the people in our communities need Christ, they need the hope, the love, the life that only Christ can give.

The Bible tells a wonderful, amazing, relevant, life-transforming story. It is the story of a spiritual awakening. It is the story, filled with many stories about the journey of people - lots of different kinds of people - rediscovering a God who loves them so much that ultimately this God sends us God's Son.

The Gospels, which tell the specific story of this great good news, share a journey that records the major events in the life of Jesus - the man who is God, yet also human. It is the story of the central mystery of Christianity - the story of the incarnation, which means that God became human, though still, remained God. We have celebrated this remarkable story for more than 2,000 years now. And this story is not just a story to be celebrated. It is a story to be lived. We are to make it happen – continue this story today!

We need the body of Christ to be present here and now, in the flesh, in 2016, in the West Virginia conference – a presence of Christ that we can hear and touch and smell and see. The interesting thing is most of us don't find Christ in some obscure setting like a remote mountain monastery. Most of us need to find Christ in the kitchen, and in the backyard, and in the parking lot, and on the phone. We need Christ to hold us when we are discouraged. We need Christ to motivate and move us when we ignore someone in need.

Folks, we need to understand and we need to show the world, our communities, our families that the incarnation was not a thirty-three-year experiment; a one-shot excursion by God into human history...and now, it's over. The incarnation didn't just suddenly come to an end when Jesus ascended to heaven. The incarnation is still going on. It's just as physically real today as it was when Jesus walked the dusty roads of Palestine.

When the Holy Spirit came to fill up those believers on that very first Pentecost - after Jesus had gone back to heaven - God once again took on flesh. Through the Holy Spirit, God enables us, together, to become the body of Christ for the world today. By giving us the Holy Spirit, God awakens in each of us the gifts that God needs to continue to be here and present in this weary world, a world that is full of temptations and distractions that seek to steal hope and life.

At Pentecost, God gave us God's spirit so that we could in turn share the spiritual awakening and the invitation to eternal life to all people. God empowered us to multiply the good news, to make it contagious. To make it happen! Remember, this is what the goal of 2,400+ is all about. Reaching people for Christ! Multiplying the Good News!

Well... how, when, where do we make it happen? How do we continue this good news with 2400+, share the love of God, be the tangible body of Christ for today, help others to claim the spiritual awakening God has offered to them? Offered to us?

Well, I think in order to make this all happen, we need to pay attention and allow God's Spirit to fill us in the ordinary times of life. Perhaps it is the ordinary times that are the more important

times. Perhaps it's more in those ordinary times, those everyday times when nothing special is really happening or planned when God once again fills us up with the Holy Spirit opening to us opportunities to give people – with whom we meet and work every day – an experience of Christ. It's usually, I find, in the ordinary, everyday times, when we are called to allow those gifts with which God has blessed us to be used so that those who need Christ in their lives - a real, physical, present Christ will be able to find Christ through us.

Jesus did it 2,000 years ago, and now God is calling on us to make it happen again.

St. Teresa of Avila captured it so well when she wrote:

*Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands but yours,  
no feet but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which  
Christ's compassion must look out on the world.  
Yours are the feet with which  
He is to go about doing good.  
Yours are the hands with which  
He is to bless us now. \**

There are 2,400 + people in our communities who are not yet acquainted with the Christ who brings hope and life. God has given us the gift of God's Spirit so that we might continue to be the body of Christ for the world today.

What are your gifts from the Spirit? Have you claimed your spiritual awakening so that you might awaken others to Christ's presence and invitation to salvation? Are you ready to allow God to fill you and use you in all those ordinary times in all those ordinary, everyday places?

Remember - God is calling on and counting on us to make it happen. In the midst of everything else that grabs our attention in this world, won't you make it your priority to reach more people for Christ and disciple them in Christ's way.

*\* Attributed to St. Teresa of Avila and quoted in "The Holy Longing" by Ronald Rolheiser, p. 73*

# CALENDAR

**Conference Event Highlights** - The role of the Conference Calendar is to share the events and business of conference level agencies and ministries.

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## October

- 1 - 2** Burlington Apple Harvest Festival
- 1** Mon Valley District Lay Servant Academy
- 7 - 8** Potomac Highlands District Lay Servant Academy
- 8** Lay Mobilization Institute
- 15, 29** Northern District Lay Servant Academy
- 18 - 20** 2016 Clergy School
- 21 - 22** United Methodist Women Annual Meeting
- 28 - 29** Midland South District Lay Servant Academy

## November

- 11 - 12** Reaching New People 2016
- 18 - 20** Fall Workshop

*For full details and event locations, visit the conference calendar online at [wvumc.org/events](http://wvumc.org/events)*

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## *We Remember*

**Raymond Wright Thrush**, father of Rev. Brenda Shreve (Trinity/Keyser Charge - Potomac Highlands District), died Thursday, September 1.

**Rev. Daniel A. Deem (FE-R)**, died Friday, September 16.

**Rev. Eddie Kyle**, Wesleyan District, died Thursday, September 22.

**Eugene Shreve**, father of Joseph Shreve, Retired Elder, died on Saturday, September 24.

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***Our mission is to  
discover, develop,  
and deploy passionate  
spiritual leaders who  
make disciples of  
Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of  
the world.***



# Why the Pension Holiday?



**By Jim Berner**

In November of 2015, the Conference Board of Pensions passed unanimously the "Pension Holiday" with regard to the CRSP-DB costs. This represents the largest of the pension costs that the local church is responsible for. By granting this holiday, the Board encouraged local churches to apply the money that was already in their budgets to be used for new or sustaining ministries in their local churches, parishes, and districts. The main complaint that is heard on a consistent basis is, "if we had more money, we could do more ministry."

I am happy to report that more ministry is happening in 2016! We have received numerous articles, pictures and stories from churches about what they were able to do with this unexpected windfall. It is encouraging to see the outpouring of ministry to a variety of people throughout the conference.

But, there is always the rest of the story. The devastating floods of this past summer have focused our attention to a different ministry to our people. Some have lost everything and the conference has received in excess of \$1 million dollars in a show of compassion and giving to those in need.

As we head into the final months of 2016, let us continue to focus on ministry to all people less fortunate than we are and demonstrate the love of Christ to all people.

*Jim Berner is the West Virginia Conference Treasurer and Pension Officer. Contact Jim at **Tresrr@aol.com**. He welcomes questions or comments about the 2016 Pension Holiday.*

# Lay Mobilization Institute

**By Rev. Amy Shanholtzer**

*Director of Evangelism and  
Congregational Development*

So, what would you do in order to reach someone who had never heard the good news of Christ's saving love and grace? How much time would you commit to learn a new way to interact with your community? Would you be willing to learn from churches in your conference or district – to hear their struggles and learn the lessons about reaching a new generation?



Leaders from 20 churches in our conference are currently engaged in educational communities where they are learning from one another and experienced coaches about systems and process that work in reaching new people where they live. They are investing themselves – their time, talent and treasure – in order that others may come to know Christ. In many cases, these churches are also investing their funds from the pension holiday so that they will become more effective in developing relationships with their neighbors.

Sixteen of the churches are taking part in the "Reaching New People" workshop and follow-up coaching. They are learning new ways to build relationships with new folks in their area. They

are doing great work and meeting new folks in backyard barbeques, afternoons spent canoeing with friends or baking cookies with neighbors and friends at home. The follow-up coaching process teaches how to build relationship in natural ways, before expecting someone to enter a room full of folks who are essentially strangers in worship. If you'd like to learn more, sign up to attend the next Reaching New People workshop at First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg, WV on November 11-12, 2016 or go to <http://conta.cc/2bpSDPC> for more information.

Four additional churches are engaged in congregational transformation process called the Lay Mobilization Institute. Perry Memorial, Fayetteville and United Methodist Temple in the Southern District and Steele Memorial in the Western District have invested in this process to build a leadership environment in which a

discipleship system can be developed to bring transformation to their church and community. You can find out more about the ways in which they are investing their pension holiday funds to bring new life to their communities at an LMI interest event at Community of Grace

at 225 8th Avenue, Huntington, WV on Saturday, October 8, 2016 from 9:00am – 12:30pm. You can also find out more by searching for the WV UMC Lay Mobilization Institute page on Facebook. There are photos and videos of current participants, as well as some videos that explain this adaptive process. If you have other questions, please contact **Amy Shanholtzer**, Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development at [ashanholtzer@wvumc.org](mailto:ashanholtzer@wvumc.org).

It is possible to find new ways to tell the best story that someone could ever hear. These tools can help your congregation learn new ways to do that. We hope this is the right time for your congregation to join with these 20 on the journey.

# 2400+ and Vital, Healthy Congregations

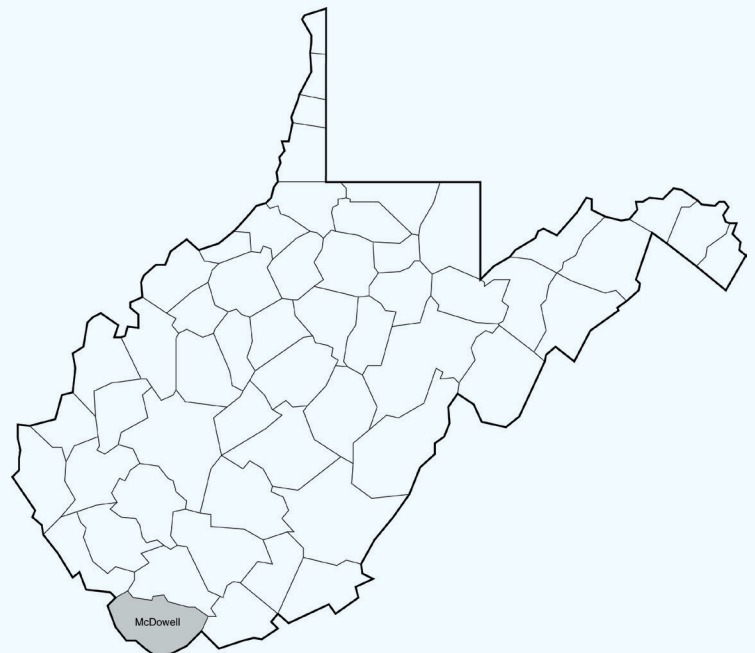
By Rev. Joe Kenaston

*Southern District Superintendent*

Fall is an amazing season: schools are in session, football, soccer, band, autumn colors, and Charge Conferences! I love all of fall's offerings including Charge Conferences. I find it exciting to travel around the Southern District and hear the stories of what God is doing in churches and communities, charges and cooperative parishes, and in neighborhoods and rural areas. Charge Conference gives us an opportunity to celebrate mission efforts, extravagant generosity, and new initiatives of ministry. We pause to reflect on the past and prayerfully plan God's call on us in the New Year.

In 2015 the WV Annual Conference cast a vision of 2,400+ new Christians by New Year's Eve 2016. When we exceed 2,400 professions of faith that will be a great reason to celebrate that is more than simply the beginning of a new year. It will be a celebration of new life, of hope, and of joy in heaven!

Tonight I was in the western side of McDowell County and in charge conferences I heard of the church in Iaeger receiving two new people and welcoming back another who had been gone for a long time. Iaeger is a small church in an economically devastated community with a



precipitous population decline.

The church has a small membership and worships in their fellowship hall because they are few in number and, consequently, feel disconnected in the large sanctuary. The Bradshaw church has five new people participating in worship and the life of the church. Bradshaw has as many challenges in their community as Iaeger. Bradshaw had moved their service time to 12:30pm a few years ago to accommodate the schedule of their assigned supply. Iaeger is served by a part-time local pastor who is appointed in the retired capacity.

In addition to the two churches in McDowell, I also had the privilege of celebrating with Justice in Mingo County. Although Justice has not received any new members this year they have maintained their attendance and sent one of their young adults to licensing school. Now a son of Justice UMC is serving his first year as a Licensed Local Pastor in the Potomac Highlands District. Charge Conferences have become a time of celebration.

As all the churches and charges complete their paperwork for Charge Conference, the Pastor's Report and the Vital Congregation Report, are opportunities to celebrate new life. The District Superintendents will collect the information, read all the reports in advance of Charge Conference, lead the celebration, and report the results to the office of Evangelism and Congregational Development of the Annual Conference. These reports will help us gauge how we are moving towards the 2,400+ as we draw closer to New Year's Eve.

On behalf of the Bishop and Cabinet, I want to thank you for your faithfulness in preparing and participating in Charge Conference. As we do the work of ministry we celebrate the movement of God in our lives, in our churches, and in our communities. To God be all praise and glory!

*Rev. Joe Kenaston is the Southern District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet. He can be contacted at [joekenaston@gmail.com](mailto:joekenaston@gmail.com).*





# A pastor's reflection on the 2,400

By Rev. Jonathan Nettles

We've heard much about the 2,400+ and the pension holiday, including the wonderful stories of hope included in the "50 days of Easter." Yet if I'm honest, at times I've taken these as just one more creative way of encouraging the church to be the Church. I mean, we're always supposed to make disciples – right? The pension holiday is a great relief for churches, especially the many struggling to make budget, but I saw it more as financial good news than a life-giving opportunity.

It's amazing how seemingly random events can come together to change our perspective. The "Day of Hope" focused much needed attention on the seriousness of drug addiction in our conference. A recent Facebook post on the situation in Huntington brought some of those stark realities into clearer focus, but I've also grieved for some time as I've watched lives being stolen and destroyed in my own community of Parkersburg. I've worked with the churches to do what we could, but the problem seemed to dwarf our resources.



Looking ahead to the Advent and Christmas seasons pulled all of this together. I always look forward to this time of anticipating Christ's return and celebrating his birth. It's consistently been a season of great joy for me, and a time when I'm especially happy to be a part of the Church.

We've found ways to reach out and help those in need as a part of our celebration, but the focus has really been more on celebrating the blessings of being part of the Church. We've spent more energy enjoying being found, and seeking the lost has more or less taken a back seat.

When I think of the many others all around me who face Advent and Christmas trapped by addictions, hopeless in a season of hope, crushed by darkness while we celebrate the light of Christ – I long for so much more. The 2,400+ starts with one, and the one has a face. Actually there are many faces, and those faces and their stories sometimes haunt me. They are people I've come to know in various ways, and I long for them to more fully know the life-giving hope we celebrate. The pension holiday is not just about budget, but rather is a resource providing new opportunities for us to creatively share that hope with those in great need. As we plan and prepare in Parkersburg, we do so with a heart-felt desire to honor Christ's birth by reaching those lost sheep that he loves and longs for. My hope and prayer is that many of those stories of despair will be turned into stories of hope, as we allow the love and light of Christ to flow through our lives and churches this Advent and Christmas. We can and we must make a difference!

*Rev. Jonathan Nettles, is an active member on the Conference Communications Team, and serves in the Little Kanawha District in the East Vienna - Wesley charge. Contact Jonathan at **[nettlesjk@gmail.com](mailto:nettlesjk@gmail.com)***

# Superintendent gives update on District Pension Holiday Events

By Superintendent Martha Ognibene  
*Northern District Superintendent*

Everybody loves a holiday—and our Pension Holiday has helped folks all over show the love of Jesus to our neighbors, and to learn to love and serve a little more.

***Here are some ways congregations in the Northern District have used this gift:***

First UMC, Chester, focused on helping children. They have donated books to the local elementary school library, participated with Energy Express—both financially and physically, and donated supplies to Comfort House, a domestic violence support outreach for children.

Several churches are using the money to support food pantries, backpack ministries, feeding stations, and other programs that work for equal resources for the poor, and that help us to get to know one another better.

First UMC, Sistersville, is constructing a Community Prayer Chapel at the City Building. The Chapel will be open to everyone during the daytime, and a prayer box will be available for the community to leave prayer requests. The congregation will include those requests in their prayer time.

Trinity UMC, New Cumberland is working with Recovering Hope, an ecumenical outreach with persons struggling with addictions, while Oak Grove/Ebenezer is partnering with the Addiction Recovery Ministry Program.

The folks at Hope UMC, Wheeling, are beginning a new worship service in a local apartment building with their Pension Holiday funds, letting their light shine bright in their community.

Colliers UMC provided personal care packages to school children, and New Life UMC, on Wheeling Island is providing Blessing Bags to those soliciting or homeless on the streets.

The congregation at Short Creek UMC sponsored a soccer clinic with their holiday monies, complete with a visit and Bible lesson from Coach Paul! Their sister congregation, Warwood UMC, is increasing their visibility with a “Church Can Happen Anywhere” ministry: cleaning the local park; repairing local homes; developing community-focused prayer resources, and more.

There are many new and exciting ministries around our district and our conference that had their start in the dreams of our people and their faithfulness to living God’s call. We are thankful for the financial assistance the Pension Holiday has given to bring these dreams to reality, and we can’t wait to see what good things happen next! *Contact Martha at [mlsognibene@gmail.com](mailto:mlsognibene@gmail.com)*



*Goals for God Soccer Clinic with Short Creek UMC.*



# Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

The Holy Spirit was active and at work at the 28th annual United Methodist Men and Circuit Rider weekend!

The Saturday evening remembrance of baptism included the celebration of a baptism as Timothy Daniel Johnson, son of Teresa and Stephen Prince, committed his life to Christ and was baptized on September 10, 2016. Timothy is a member of Westover UMC, Westover, West Virginia and a member of UMM.

United Methodist Men's National Prayer Advocate, Jim Kelley, invited all United Methodist Men to live into the principles of UMM. To be in Bible Study daily, pray every day and then to bear witness to Christ by being involved in Christian service daily.



A Christ-led spiritual breath of fresh air at the UMM retreat! (Photo left to right: Joe Kelley, UMM National Prayer advocate, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Timothy Johnson, Stephen Prince, Tim's stepfather)

One way that the UMM does this is by inviting all conference scouts to a weekend campout at Jackson's Mill. Free of charge, as guests of the UMM.

More than 430 scouts and leaders from across the conference gathered to explore news skills and enjoy fellowship with one another.

The 2017 UMM Retreat and Circuit Rider event will be at Jackson's Mill September 8-10, 2017. The event is free and open to all Boy Scout, Girl Scout and Venture troops.

Contact Don Davis, UMM President, for more details. Don may be reached at [gmaudie@frontiernet.net](mailto:gmaudie@frontiernet.net).

Share YOUR stories of hope! Please send photos and stories of the Holy Spirit at work in your faith community through baptism and renewal to [wvumc@wvumc.org](mailto:wvumc@wvumc.org).



# A Pension Holiday letter from Johnson Chapel United Methodist Church, Morgantown

By Diana Linger Holdren

Bishop Steiner Ball,

I am so pleased to share with you my thought on what a blessing it has been to have this Pension Holiday which freed up funds to focus on areas within our church, Johnson Chapel UMC.

The first thing we did upon hearing that we had extra funds to use in our mission to make new Disciples for Christ was to have a brain-storming meeting on what areas we should focus on that would have the greatest impact. We had so many great ideas but we felt lead to go back to our basic roots. Johnson Chapel was formed by the faithful yet heartbroken mother Bessie Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was always obedient to God's calling. When her son, Robert Johnson, was killed in World War II in 1944, Mrs. Johnson used the small amount of money she was given to start a church in her son's memory to make sure that all the area children had access to a Sunday School class. She diligently worked and started our church in a little barn. "The Barn" as it is fondly called today, had 15 children attend

Sunday School class in the beginning and grew. No matter what the challenge, Mrs. Johnson worked faithfully, until her death in 1989, to make sure all children had access to Sunday School .

As years have passed our building has changed but our spirit remains obedient to the Lord. Many of the original "Barn Kids" have move all over the United States but always make sure when

The original barn of Johnson Chapel UMC, 1944







**Cowboy Roundup VBS at Johnson Chapel UMC**

they are in the area they stop in and share their thoughts on the precious gift of Jesus Christ that Mrs. Johnson instilled in them.

Through the last few years our congregations children have grown and many moved away. Our children Sunday School class was empty. Some children came to church but no children ever made it to Sunday School for several years. With this said, we knew exactly where the funds needed to be applied.....children. After preparation, we had an All Church Sunday School ReBoot on May 1, 2016. We went with a Cowboy Roundup theme and everyone joined in - young and old. The following Sunday there were nine children in attendance at Sunday School. We have been maintaining between 8-11 children each Sunday knowing that it will increase.

We also started handing out Children's Bulletins and making sure that children are an active part in our church services. We had a great Vacation Bible School at Johnson Chapel with our sister church Community UMC joining in the fun. Our next event was a Talent Roundup for Kids talent show in August. At each of our events we reach out to the community. Our church is blessed with wonderful leadership in Pastor Brad Bennett and our church is full of faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We have many plans throughout the year to help our children grow in their discipleship and make sure all children and their families know they are welcome. We have always followed the view that the first time you enter our doors you are a loved visitor and the next time you are family.

***Thank you so much for helping us ReBoot our Children's Ministry!***

*Diana Linger Holdren is the Lay Leader at Johnson Chapel UMC in the MonValley District. She can be contacted at [holdrend@gmail.com](mailto:holdrend@gmail.com).*

## *Technology for All of Us: Logos for the local church – an interview with Pastor Martin Straley*

By Rev. Cheryl George

Lost River United Methodist Church sits along busy State Route 259, a thoroughfare between Corridor H and Virginia in the southeast corner of Hardy County, in the Potomac Highlands District. This is one small church in a four-point rural charge with a new pastor, Martin Straley. I spoke to Martin on the steps of this church one afternoon about his churches and the ministry. He shared with me some of the hopes and dreams that he has for these small churches.

One of the steps that he is taking in reaching those goals is to create a logo for his churches. I asked how he came to this decision. He said he receives the emails from United Methodist Communications. These emails are full of information for small to large churches. One of the things he noticed is that he always finds some information that he can use in his ministry. At the bottom of one of these emails there was a blurb about United Methodist Communications

branding and web design tools and the word that every small church pastor notices--free.

Pastor Martin had a dream of bringing a website to the Mathias Charge, to tell the story of the people of the churches, as well as to give information to the



*Martin Straley,  
Pastor of  
Mathias  
Charge,  
Potomac  
Highlands  
District*

community and others about the mission and work of the people of God in this charge. One of the things that he knew was needed was a brand that was consistent with the United Methodist Church branding. Why? In Martin's words, "I wanted everything to match, so that if someone came to this page, they would know it is the

real deal. " The connection between these small country churches and the global church through the cross and flame also is important. "We are a connectional church and people should be able to look at our logo and know that we are a part of the United Methodist Church."

The church's logo is the face of the church to the community, representing everything the church and ministry stands for.

This goal of a standard logo for his churches was surprisingly easy, quick and painless.

A visit to **[www.umcom.org/tools/free-branding-logo-service](http://www.umcom.org/tools/free-branding-logo-service)** gives simple instructions that begin with an email that included the church names and address. There was a choice to add a vision statement or tagline as well. A draft of the logo was back within a few days and once approved by Pastor Straley, the entire suite of logos was emailed back in less than 24 hours. In all, the process took about 5 working days.

The logos are a complete set of high-resolution logos in full color,

all-white and all-black versions, as well as logos featuring The United Methodist Church brand promise, which were provided via email. Now any time the churches wish to print anything from an invitation or a thank you note to a special bulletin or shirts, the logos are available. The logos will be a prominent part of the web page. This web page is being hosted through United Methodist Communications, which offers low cost options and training for web design and maintenance, for all United Methodist Churches.

Pastor Martin showed me the completed logos on his phone and others will soon see them on everything printed and web for the churches of the Mathias Charge.

*Pastor Cheryl George serves the Aurora Charge in the Potomac Highlands District. She is also the chair of the Communications Team. Cheryl has started the branding process with United Methodist Communications for her own churches.*

*Please be sure to share your logos and stories with us at the conference center by emailing **[vvumc@vvumc.org](mailto:vvumc@vvumc.org)**.*



**Lost River United Methodist Church**

Lost River, West Virginia

The United Methodist Church



# *The Pension Holiday at work around us*

Submitted by

**Rev. Clare Sulgit**, *Fayetteville-Doggett Charge*

Fayetteville UMC is using their pension holiday for emerging ministries. One that was identified early on was the coaching fee for the Lay Mobilization Institute. The LMI team has 11 members and are currently in phase 2. Rev. Tim Bleigh, that was appointed to the Fayetteville-Doggett Chapel charge July 1, joined in on the sessions.

Another use Fayetteville has approved for the pension holiday funds was to create a youth group and help sponsor their registration fees for the "Rally On the Mountain" conference youth event in July. Fayetteville youth have been meeting in confirmation classes on Sunday evenings and having some fun! They are learning about God's love and grace, and what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ.

*The Fayetteville-Doggett Chapel is located in the Southern District. You can contact Rev. Sulgit at [humccjs@aol.com](mailto:humccjs@aol.com).*





# Girl Scouts

By Rev. Maria Wiblin

Pastor Tim Edin of Gateway UMC thanks the WVUMC Conference Pension Holiday 2016 for the ability to start a Girl Scout –Daisy Troop.

Pastor Edin says presently there are 10 girls in the troop and that they are now ready to expand to all ages up to high school. Pastor Edin says the partnership has allowed connection with people outside of the church including the grade school. He also said the church has a once a month Girl Scout emphasis in worship, which strengthens the relationship between the congregation and the troop.

According to one parent "The Girl Scout troop and members feel very welcomed by the staff and congregation at Gateway. The church is good about communicating to the congregation about the things the troop is doing and any needs they may have. In return the troop has been able to come in and assist with different functions at the church."

"My daughter loves Girl Scouts and has made new friends in her troop. It's also given her an opportunity to participate in community service projects, which help her understand the bigger picture of the world around her."

According to both parents, children and Pastor the addition of the troop is a good match for everyone.

*Maria is Campus Pastor at Fairmont State University. Gateway UMC is located in the MonValley District. Rev. Tim Edin can be contacted at [pastortimedin@yahoo.com](mailto:pastortimedin@yahoo.com).*



# *Don't forget the following Special Sundays in October:*

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**World Communion Sunday – October 2**

**Undie Sunday – October 9**

**Children's Sabbath Sunday – October 9**

**Laity Sunday – October 16**

**Ministry Exploration Sunday – October 23**

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