



# THE CONNECTION

## Orlean United Methodist Church



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**Mission Statement:**  
Love God. . .Love Others. . .Reach Out to the Community and the World

**July 2016**

### **Notes from Roanoke**

Pastor Jim and I attended the 234th session of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church which was held June 17-19 in Roanoke. Although I have attended several annual conferences, this was my first one presided over by our current bishop Young Jin Cho. I have to say that I was personally very impressed with Bishop Cho. He ran the proceedings smoothly and professionally, yet with the right touch of humility that didn't leave one wondering if the bishop thought he had been blessed with papal infallibility. In other words, he was a breath of fresh air; unfortunately his term is up and we will miss him. We should hope for a clone to be named his successor.

Many things were the same as previous conferences. The Bible studies and worship experiences were exceptional and inspiring. The speakers were mostly very high quality and interesting individuals. The conferees were mostly in a very good mood and pleasant to engage in conversation. The musicians were outstanding running the gamut from Christian rock to traditional. Some people were determined that their pet project/peeve would be heard by all at the conference who, of course, would all see the light and fall into line. To be fair, there was less of this than previously, and it was mostly well controlled by the bishop.

There were two major differences that I noticed from previous conferences I have attended. One was the previously noted attitude of the bishop. Secondly, the music this year was much more traditional. As most of you know, I love the hymns that we sing. It is inspiring to me to hear a crowd of hundreds of people joyfully singing those hymns. I don't suggest that the only good hymns are the old hymns, as many of my current favorites had not been written when I was growing up and forming my early attachments to favorite hymns. Since most conference sessions start with a fifteen minute "Singing our faith" session, music plays an important role at conference. I contrast this year's joyous participation with one of the last conferences I attended when almost every song was sung in some different language--and I don't mean some familiar language. Predictably, participation in the singing that year was lackluster at best. We also had a Christian rock group this year that led some of the songs and elicited a great deal of joyful and enthusiastic participation.

Annual Conference is something that more people should experience. If you are interested in attending talk to either Pastor Jim, PPRC chair Sandy Payne, or lay leader Ellie Casterline.

Rusty Rawson

### Tip of the Halo to:

- ~~Joan for coordinating Team Orlean for *Hoofin' it for the Homeless* event
- ~~Team Orlean (Joan, Elma, Tanya, Ellie, Daryl, Beth, Rusty, Scott) for raising \$583 for the homeless shelter
- ~~everyone who donated to Team Orlean
- ~~everyone who made the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck a success
- ~~everyone who contributed Campbell's Labels for Education, Tyson A+, and Box Tops for Red Bird
- ~~Elma for sending creative, personal greeting cards
- ~~Lorraine for playing the organ at Ellie's father's funeral

### Birthdays and Special Occasions

July 7	Thomas C.	Aug. 3	Amelia H.
July 7	Jeff S.	Aug. 5	Heidi J.
July 9	Carol P.	Aug. 21	Rusty R.
July 9	Sandy S.	Aug. 27	Bob B.
July 20	Elma C.	Aug. 31	Betty T.
July 25	Jim L.	Aug. 31	Eileen & Jim Leamon (anniversary)
July 27	Mary C.	Sept. 10	Zachary H.
July 30	Lorraine U.	Sept. 14	Gus & Elma Constantinides (anniversary)
July 30	Steven M.	Sept. 15	Tammy S.
July 31	Joan P.		
Aug. 1	Betty & Bob Tschida (anniversary)		

### Sincere Thank You

We can't begin to express our sincere thanks to everyone for all of the love and support you have shown us over the past year. You have all faithfully prayed for our family; consoled us during the challenging times and rejoiced with us during the better days.

We also want to thank those who brought food and flowers to the house, sent cards, and even attended my dad's funeral. We cannot put into words how awesome it was to see so many of you come to the funeral home and pay respects, and even attend the service, even though none of you had ever met him.

You are all truly amazing and have showered us with Christ's love. We simply cannot thank you enough for all you have done for our family!

We pray God will bless all of you and your family like you have done ours!

Sincerely,

*Ellie, Della-Ann, and family*

### Recognition

Orlean United Methodist Church received a Certificate of Excellence for increasing membership through profession of faith. OUMC was 1 of 16 (out of 68) churches in the Alexandria District to receive this certificate.

Team Orlean received a plaque from the *Hoofin' It for the Homeless* event for having the most team members and another plaque for having the most \$100 donations.

### Calendar of Events

- July 10 Orlean Baptist Church hosting Celebration of Freedom at 6:30 p.m.
- July 31 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck after worship
- August 7 Administrative Council meets after worship in the Fellowship Hall
- September 11 Orlean United Methodist Women 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon at Orlean Market after worship

### Food Pantry

During the second quarter, the Food Pantry provided for 2 households each month.