Every four years, The United Methodist Church holds its General Conference, at which delegates from United Methodist churches and conferences around the world come together to worship and to order our lives together by rewriting our Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions. It most recently met in May in Portland, Oregon. Here is a summary.

General Conference (GC) addresses everything from the fairly mundane (such as the authorization of a new hymnal) to the downright contentious (human sexuality, reproductive health, divestment in fossil fuels, just to start). Our denomination is a “big tent,” that welcomes everyone, both nationally and internationally. We are a global denomination. At this year’s GC, 40% of the 864 delegates came from outside the USA, with projections indicating 2020’s conference will be over 50% international. However, as the church is structured now, General Conference and the Book of Discipline are very US-centric. In fact, members of the Central Conferences (groups of annual conference outside the US, about the size of our jurisdictions) can adapt the Discipline to better match their local context, while US churches and pastors must follow the Book of Discipline as is.

Having a global conversation about a US-centric book is a difficult task. Some issues simply aren’t relevant to everyone. There’s little sense in Delegates from the North Katanga Annual Conference (the largest delegation, with 48 delegates from the Democratic Republic of the Congo) spending hours discussing the finer points of the pension formula for US ministers. Other issues are received so differently in various contexts that it’s almost impossible to discuss them, let alone construct internationally-appropriate legislation.

Not surprisingly, one of those highly contextualized issues is different expressions of human sexuality. We, as Americans, are probably more familiar with the debate surrounding LGBTQI rights or restrictions than we would like to be. We hear about it all the time. Some other cultures flat-out forbid conversations about sexuality, and many pastors in Africa still wrestle with cultural acceptance of polygamy. A pastor from the Congo Central Conference explains that in his village, “only the first wife [in a polygamous marriage] can take communion. My mother is a second wife. This is the issue in my church. I can’t serve my own mother communion.” Conversations in his annual conference are very different than ours.

Continued on page 2....
Good Shepherd’s News

Last week, there were rumors that the UMC may split into two or three new denominations over these issues. But it didn’t happen. Instead, we chose unity. After much debate, the Delegates requested that our Bishops lead us in “a way forward.” The Bishops suggested a plan to table further sexuality conversations, and instead, to form a special commission to consider a comprehensive approach to structural and/or disciplinary changes. These changes would be presented at a special GC in 2018 or 2019, as a way to build consensus and bridges instead of pain and divisiveness. (You can read the bishops’ statement at http://s3.amazonaws.com/.../council-bishops-statement...). I am happy to dialogue with you further on this issue.

In his closing sermon, Bishop Ough built on the conference theme, “Therefore, Go,” sending the 864 delegates to General Conference (and the global body of the people called Methodists) to go, sending us out to “where the wounds are,” because that’s what Methodists do best. Regardless of political persuasion or theological approach, we gather together and go. We work to alleviate suffering in the world where the world suffers the most. We don’t stay in our pews and write checks or take votes; we go. We bring the Gospel into a hurting world, shining God’s light where the darkness of poverty, war, natural disaster, heartbreaking, and injustice threatens to overcome. John Wesley proclaimed, “The world is my parish!” May it be so for our United Methodist brothers and sisters around the world – and for us! Therefore, GO!

On the Journey,

Pastor Bonnie

(This month’s column is a summary of General Conference, written by Rev. Nancy Speas Hill, Franklin UMC, Tennessee, and used and adapted with permission)

BEYOND OUR WALLS

Annual Conference

Pastor Bonnie and Pastor Randy will be attending Annual Conference in Washington, DC June 1-4, to attend to the business of the annual conference as we share in ministry together. If you have a pastoral need, please call the church office. Another pastor will be on call for emergencies only. Please keep our Annual Conference in your prayers.

Parking Notice

HonFest is Saturday, June 11-Sunday, June 12. When you come to worship on June 12, our parking lot will be available, however, there may be additional parking restrictions or street closures around our area. Please drive safely.
Thursday, July 7: Community Concert in Roosevelt Park, 6pm

**Bible Study**

Bible Study is on summer break! Please join us in September as we re-launch our Tuesdays@2 study time. One suggestion for a topic has already come in. Have something else you want to study? Please contact Pastor Bonnie to see if we can make it a reality this year. In the meantime, you are invited to join Pastor Bonnie in praying at 12 noon every day, wherever you are. Pray for our congregation, leadership, pastor, community, City, nation, and world. There are 7 prayer suggestions listed. Pick one each day to pray for (Sunday: Congregation; Monday: Leadership; Tuesday: Pastor; etc.). We’ll see you in the fall.

**Dinner & A Movie and Family Night**

Our Friday night programs will be taking a break from June-August. Stay tuned for what new programs will debut in September!

**Children’s Choir**

A new Children’s Choir was recently started. They rehearse after worship each week and sing for the Offertory on the 4th Sunday of each month. All children and youth are welcome! Please see Pam Seibert with questions.

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**Note From the Editor:** The views expressed in any newsletter articles are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, its pastor, leaders, or members; the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference; or The United Methodist Church.
Congregation’s Corner

The greatest gift I ever had came from God. I call him Dad.

Happy Father’s Day!

F.Y.I.

Our Daily Bread Booklets Available
Small Print - June, July, August 2016
Large Print - July, August, September 2016

Room Reservations
To avoid space conflicts, please ensure that all events and activities, no matter how small, make it to the Church Calendar located outside of the Office. Thank you.

Father’s Day
Thank you to everyone who made donations for the Father’s Day bulletin insert. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins through June 5th. Please see Nancy Cromwell if you have questions.

Lay Readers Needed
Weekly lay readers are needed for July, August, and September. Please contact Nancy Cromwell before June 19th if you are interested in signing up.

Mission Opportunities

HWRMW FOOD PANTRY...Bernie McAllister
Please continue to support the HWRMW Food Pantry by donating non-perishable food items. There is always a need for soups, pasta/pasta sauce, tuna, canned vegetables, cereal. Toiletries, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream and soap are also needed. Please continue to bring these items in throughout the year, and place them in the box in the Roland Avenue narthex.

BOARD OF CHILD CARE...Bernie McAllister
The Board of Child Care and The Strawbridge School are still in need of Labels for Education. The labels will continue to help The Strawbridge School to get things they need. Please remember them by bringing in labels to put in the box on the table in the 38th St. Narthex. The participating products are: Bic, Campbell’s, Dannon, Emerald, Pace, Pepperidge Farm, Pop Secret, Post, Prego, SpagettiO’s, Swanson, V-8 Beverages, V-8 Splash, V-8 V-Fusion. If you have questions, please contact Bernie McAllister.
We have now entered the Church Season of “Ordinary Time.” During this time, we use the green paraments on the pulpit and Communion Table. It is named not because it is “ordinary,” but rather because it uses “ordinal” (counting) numbers to keep track of time. For example, we will say it is the 14th Sunday After Pentecost. We count the number of weeks after Pentecost, until we get to Christ the King Sunday to end the church year and start again at Advent. It is the longest uninterrupted stretch of time in the Church year. If Pentecost was on May 15, and Advent begins on November 27, how many weeks are in this year’s “Ordinary Time?” The first person to give the correct answer to Pastor Bonnie will win a prize.

Church Council Update

Church Council met on April 28. We received 1st Quarter Finance updates, letting us know that the market has done well so far this year, and we are not losing money on our investments. We also received worship committee updates, encouraging us to move to a weekly Lay Reader schedule (as opposed to the monthly schedule that had been the practice). Our updates on Children & Youth can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. We continue our work to vision for the future, and see where God is leading us to go.

The next meetings are Thursday, May 26 at 3pm and Thursday, June 23 at 3pm. The meetings are open to the congregation, but only Council Members have voice and vote. Church Council will be taking a break for July. By August, we will be looking ahead towards Charge Conference and Nominations for January 2017. If you feel that God is calling you to serve in some capacity, please let Pastor Bonnie know. For other Church Council questions, please contact Linda Thompson, Chair.

Worship Column by Pastor Bonnie

We have now entered the Church Season of “Ordinary Time.” During this time, we use the green paraments on the pulpit and Communion Table. It is named not because it is “ordinary,” but rather because it uses “ordinal” (counting) numbers to keep track of time. For example, we will say it is the 14th Sunday After Pentecost. We count the number of weeks after Pentecost, until we get to Christ the King Sunday to end the church year and start again at Advent. It is the longest uninterrupted stretch of time in the Church year. If Pentecost was on May 15, and Advent begins on November 27, how many weeks are in this year’s “Ordinary Time?” The first person to give the correct answer to Pastor Bonnie will win a prize.

In My Opinion... by John Landers

As we all know, some of the great books, movies, and tv shows involve mysteries. We love the stories about Sherlock Holmes, Ellery Queen, and even Columbo. However, these types of mysteries are solved for us.

The one mystery that has not been solved is the size and complexities of the universe. When God created the universe, early humans knew nothing about it. Through the centuries, God has allowed us to learn more of its workings.

The mystery of gravity led Isaac Newton to explore why objects heavier than air fall to the ground. Lightning led Ben Franklin to study electricity. And atomic energy has become a household word. Whenever I hear that wonderful hymn “How Great Thou Art”, I can’t help but think of God’s universe.

The day will come when God allows us to learn even more of his great creation. A few years ago, a famous scientist was asked if he believed that the universe just happened or if God created it. This was his answer: “The odds of the universe just happening, without God’s work, are about the same as if Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary was a result of an explosion in a printing factory.”

Why did God create such a huge universe? Who knows? Maybe he has plans for its use in all of our eternities. One thing is for sure. The more we learn about it, the more we can sing “How Great Thou Art, How Great Thou Art!”
Good Shepherd’s News

Good Shepherd Children and Youth Programs

Summer is finally here! As we all finish up the school year, we look forward to a very exciting season ahead. We look forward to not only West River Youth Camps, but also to our own summer day camps coming up in August. As we look forward to what is to come, it is also good to reflect upon what an amazing year we had! We welcomed many new students and families into our programs, and we implemented some new ministries to meet the growing needs of these students and families.

Our after school program has been especially busy over the past month. There is a growing interest in our program within the community, and park days give us the opportunity to reach out to those who may not be a part of our programming yet. We are trying to accommodate new families as best we can, and we are very blessed to say we are still running at full capacity. We finished up our bird houses, and were happy to “crown” a winner of “The Best Birdhouse.” We finished up the year with a pizza party as we said goodbye to all of our graduating 8th graders.

Our monthly Dinner & A Movie is always a lot of fun to be a part of. If you have an interest in helping with Dinner & A Movie, please let me know so we can get you on the team. We would also love suggestions for the menu or movie choice.

In April we started a Family Night on Fridays. There is something for everyone; we enjoy games together, as well as snacks and a bible lesson. We are also pleased to announce that we are now offering ballet classes taught by Lyndsy Keith on Tuesday nights. If you would like more information, please go to our church website.

Ballet classes will continue through the summer. We will be taking a break from Family Night and Dinner & A Movie, and will begin again in the fall. I would like to thank all those that have been helping. We truly could not do it without you!

God Bless,
Pastor Randy

West River

A big thank you to all who donated to help our 22 youth go to West River Camp! We raised over $3,000 that combined with scholarship funds, allow us to send these students to camp for a nominal cost. Thank you! If you donated and gave us your name, you should be receiving personalized thank you notes from students soon. Please keep our staff and students in your prayers as we prepare for our week away.

Families, please remember that you are required to be in worship on Sunday, July 24, before we leave for camp. We want to pray for our campers and be sure that everyone has what they need. If your family does not have transportation, please see Pastor Bonnie or Pastor Randy ASAP so we can arrange it for you. Thank you.
It’s that time of year! Registration is open for our FREE August summer camps for youth entering grades 1-8. Please go to our website, www.goodshepherdhampden.com to register. All camps run Monday-Thursday, 9am-12:30pm. A continental breakfast is available. Lunch is served to all youth and helpers. If you have a skill that you can teach to our youth one day, please contact Pastor Randy. Older youth may serve as junior counselors, pending a successful interview. Contact Pastor Randy with any questions.

**August 1-4: MADD Camp (Music, Art, Dance, Drama)**

Come show off your talents, and learn some new ones! An open house/Talent Show/Presentation will take place on Thursday, August 4 at 11am. Families are welcome to attend, and stay for lunch.

**August 8-11: Science & Ecology Camp**

Join us for wacky science experiments, hands-on activities, and some nature thrown in for good measure! Maybe we’ll learn about crime scene investigation, protect our waterways, explore sound...there are limitless possibilities!

**August 15-18: Sports & Cheerleading Camp**

*(Friday, August 19: Orioles Game, 7pm, must purchase tickets)*

Get ready for some friendly competition as you sharpen your skills and maybe try a new sport! Whether you prefer football, baseball, basketball, field games, or just hanging out with friends, you’ll find something here for you! All skill levels welcome. Meanwhile, if being on the field isn’t your thing, come learn some new cheers, and be prepared to cheer a team onto victory in a scrimmage!

**On Friday evening, you are invited to join the group to see the Baltimore Orioles take on the Houston Astros with post-game fireworks (7:05 game--transportation and further details will be provided to those attending the game). A responsible adult must accompany each camper, and our tickets prices are dependent on how many people go for the group rate. However, they should not exceed $15 each (so minimum cost per family should not exceed $30). If you have a financial hardship, please contact Pastor Randy or Pastor Bonnie so that we can find a way for you to attend.**

**August 22-25: Adventure Camp (Limited Enrollment)**

Finish off the summer with adventure! Field trips, exploration, and surprises await you in this action-packed week! (Only 25 spots available for transportation reasons--sign up early!).
SUNDAY’S SERMONS BY MAIL OR EMAIL

If you want a copy of Pastor Bonnie’s sermons sent to you, please contact Rachel Yates, Administrative Assistant, 410-243-1129 (the church office number). Leave your name and home or email address so she can send you the sermon.

Those who are able to attend services may also request a copy to follow along during Sunday’s sermon. Please leave your name with Pastor Bonnie after the worship service.

PLANNING MEETINGS, EVENTS, OR NEED PARKING PASSES?

Please inform the office or a member of the church staff, if you want to schedule an event at church. The parking lot will be patrolled by Greenwood Garage from 8 am to 1 pm. You must make sure your Parking Pass is visible or your car will be towed. If you plan to have guests, please be sure to get passes from the office or church staff on or before the day your guests are to arrive. If you notice a visitor in the congregation, feel free to ask if they parked on the lot so that they can get a pass.

CARDS TO CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Please be aware that we continue to ask for your help in encouraging and lifting the spirits of many of our home-bound members and friends. Please remember to share God’s love with others. Addresses are in your Church Directory.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Hosts are needed for the 1st Sunday of the month socials. Individuals or groups welcome. Consider signing up for one or more months. Help is available. The church provides coffee, tea, hot chocolate, utensils, plates, and napkins. Sign up in the narthex. If you have questions contact Shirley Huff or Bonnie Thompson.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF GOOD SHEPHERD?

Please contact Pastor Bonnie to schedule a time to meet. If there are several interested persons, a class after worship can be arranged.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Every Monday all announcements, joy and concerns, fellowship opportunities, mission opportunities and other information you want to share with the congregation should be in writing and left in the mailbox, on the wall, outside the office of Rachel Yates, Administrative Assistant.
Birthdays & Anniversaries

4  Randy Keith  
7  Joanne Keys  
15  Norman Snyder  
5  Ann McNamee  
9  Nancy Cromwell  
27  John Landers  
7  Fred Kaufmann  
12  Melissa Keith  
28  Doris Montgomery  

5  Shirley & Bill Huff  
10  Karen & Ron Sands  
18  Sue & David Penix  
27  Elaine & Ernie Grill

JOYS

Rosetta & Ron W. say hello!  
Betty K. sends her love!  
Anne M. sends greetings!  
Larry S. got glasses!  
Ginny’s granddaughter, Gabby, is graduating from high school!

CONCERNS

Duvall’s friend, B.A., has breast cancer.  
The Alvetta Thompson family.  
Pam S’ Aunt Susan.  
Pam S’ friend, Harriett.  
The United Methodist General Conference.  
The Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.  
Gerry S. is receiving home hospice care.  
Shirley M. is slowly recovering.  
Baltimore.  
The Syrian refugee crisis.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Tim P; Evelyn R. and Paula; Myrtle M; Edith’s Family; Pastor Bonnie’s grandfather, Al; Shirley S; Frances S; John & Doris C; Gloria (Jeanne H); Barbara (Linda T.); Dennis (Linda T); Norman S., Betty K.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUM DONATIONS

Memorial gifts provide a meaningful way for people to witness their thanksgiving for the life of a loved one. Honorarium gifts provide an opportunity to recognize those who have made a notable impact in the life of an individual or group. Good Shepherd UMC is grateful for all gifts to the church.

If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Nancy Cromwell at 410.366.6862.
Congratulations to Pastor Angie, our former Seminary Intern, on her graduation from Lancaster Seminary!

LECTIONARY READINGS

5  Third Sunday After Pentecost
   1 Kings 17:8-24
   Psalm 146
   Gal. 1:11-24
   Luke 7:11-17

12  Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
    1 Kings 21:1-21a
    Psalm 5:1-8
    Gal. 2:15-21
    Luke 7:36-8:3

19  Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
    1 Kings 19:1-15a
    Psalm 42
    Gal. 3:23-29
    Luke 8:26-39

26  Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
    2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
    Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
    Gal. 5:1, 13-25

PARTICIPANTS THIS MONTH

LITURGISTS
   Nancy Cromwell

GREETERS
   Elaine Grill
   Roy Keys

USHERS
   Bill Harris

ACOLYTES (see schedule on p. 9)
   Nick Curry
   Ashley Keith
   Evelynn Keith
   Nicholas Seibert
   Gordon Wheat
   Madelynn Wheat

Alternates:
   Pam Seibert

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
   Jerry Guchemand
Hanging Around at the After School Program
1st Sunday of each month in the lounge, following the Worship Service.

Fellowship Hour

Come, enjoy light refreshments and conversation.

If you are interested in hosting one Sunday, sign up in the 38th St. Narthex, or contact Shirley Huff or Bonnie Thompson.

Ways to Support Your Church

- Remember your offering
- Altar Flowers and Bulletins $26
- Garden Windows $10
- Donations
  - Memorials
  - Honorariums
  - Bulletin Insert
  - Easter Flowers
  - Mother’s Day
  - Father’s Day
  - Grandparent’s Day
  - Poinsettias
- Remember Good Shepherd in your Will

Please contact Nancy Cromwell, 410.366.6862, to place your order for flowers & to support your church by making donations.

Small Groups Ministry

Join one today

Adult Bible Studies

Will resume in September
Tuesdays at 2 PM
Led by Rev. Bonnie McCubbin
Meets in the Parlor Lounge

First Tuesday of the Month
10:00 am Prayer Group & UMW Meeting
Linda Thompson, President
Groups meet promptly in the Fellowship Hall.
Please bring a sandwich or light lunch, drinks and desserts will be provided

Second Tuesday thru Last Tuesday of each month
10:30 am Friendship Circle
Meets in the Jr. Room
Led by Nancy Cromwell
Please bring bag lunch

All are Welcome to any group

July Issue

Sunday, June 19

Publication

Sunday, June 26

All articles, as well as meetings and church events, need to be in writing and in the hands of the editor, Rachel Yates, no later than the Sunday prior to the week of publication. Thanks for your understanding and assistance.

Contact Info: 410.243.1129
or by email: churcheditor3800@verizon.net
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday  5  Fellowship Hour
Tuesday  7  10:00 AM - UMW Meeting & Prayer Session
Tuesday  14  10:30 AM Friendship Circle
Sunday  19  Newsletter Deadline for July Issue / Father’s Day
Tuesday  21  10:30 AM - Friendship Circle
Thursday  23  3:00 PM - Church Council Meeting
Sunday  26  July Newsletter Published
Tuesday  28  10:30 AM - Friendship Circle