

June 2017

The month of June holds some important ministry moments for Skipwith Church.

At the 235th Virginia Annual Conference in Hampton, Virginia, scheduled for June 16-18, one of the most pertinent actions to be taken (should Bishop Lewis and the Cabinet heed our recommendation) will be to officially renew my appointment to serve as your pastor for another year. Bishop Lewis openly assured the delegation from Skipwith attending the Convocation on Prayer on April 1st that this would be the case, and she didn't follow it up by quipping, "April Fools!" Therefore, I feel fairly confident we'll get to continue to "flesh out" the vision that God has been revealing.

The theme for Conference is ***A New Thing*** and Bishop Lewis, who is in her first year with Virginia, will be sharing her vision of how God is doing (and will do) a new thing in and through our churches. Intentional moments of reporting on how the Holy Spirit is empowering new visions of God's presence (called "glory sightings") will be highlighted. It sounds a lot like what we have been discerning in **our** life together, doesn't it?

Since our fiscal year begins in July and ends in June here at Skipwith, we have been working diligently both to determine our 2017-18 ministry plan and to devise a strategy to fund it. Our stewardship emphasis concluded on May 28 with Consecration Sunday. Your generous responses to grow in giving are cause for celebration. We trust God to bless and equip us for the ministry to which He calls us. God trusts US to fulfill our promises to live and give generously. Our District Superintendent, Peter Moon, will preach during worship on Sunday, June 25, and remain with us to preside over our called "church conference" which is needed to set and approve our ministry goals and budget.

Our vision to deepen our relationship with the teachers, staff and administrators at Skipwith Elementary School will be expressed by providing lunch and a message of encouragement on Tuesday, June 13. We're calling it a "Teacher Appreciation" event but it's for the whole staff. (There is special election that day and the cafeteria will not be available.)

...ALSO, keep in mind that our Backpack Ministry will continue assisting 32 food-challenged families until summer break begins mid-June. We're praying that God will reveal ways to continue to help even when the school year ends...since the need doesn't cease.

...AND, the faithful reading volunteers continue to spark imaginations and inspire smiles and hugs in various classrooms!

Finally, other important ministry moments in June include on-going planning for a fall mission trip to North Carolina and a "Stop Hunger Now" event.

~ PASTOR TODD