

Science experiments to illustrating Bible lessons

There are many creative ways to explore the Bible. Often overlooked is science. God created an incredible world full of fascinating laws and elements. Use science to illustrate and bring your lessons to life.

Particle/Wave duality helps explain the Trinity

Begin with a simple explanation of the difference between a particle and a wave. At the most basic level, when a particle hits a piece of paper, you see a dot; if a wave hits the paper, it makes more of a line. However, when it comes to the tinier bits of creation — like photons (a particle of light) or electrons — they push the boundaries of what we can imagine. When put to the test, each of these tiny particles will show themselves as two completely different categories of substance. Tested one way, they will appear irrefutably as particles; but change the test slightly and the results show them to be waves.

So which are they? Are they particles or waves? The answer is both. This seems counterintuitive, but somehow, these two unique substances are bound together into a single tiny piece of creation. This can help us explore (or at least illustrate) the fact that the Trinity is three unique beings while being a single being.

Purple flowers and the abundance of our hearts

Beautiful flowers are directly affected by the water in which they are placed. This is best seen by using a white flower like a carnation. If you take fresh flowers and put them in colored water, the water will move up the stem and eventually begin changing the color of the flower.

Jesus says that people are the same way. If we allow ourselves to be surrounded by sinful things and continue to take those things into our hearts, they will be reflected publicly as well. Or, as Jesus puts it, “Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45).

TIP: Since this one takes a bit of time, it can be a great way to add continuity between two weeks with placing the flower in the water the first week and seeing the transformation the next.

We stand in a long line of people who were willing to engage with science. John Wesley valued observation to support hypotheses. Having fun with teaching is key, and making it interactive is even better.

Read more of this article at umcom.org.

— Jeremy Steele, *United Methodist Communications*

Urgent need for UVMIM work teams

The Virginia Conference Disaster Recovery ministry currently has ongoing operations in Evergreen (Farmville District), Tappahannock (Fredericksburg District), Virginia Beach (Elizabeth River District) and Waverly (James River District). There are open dates available from now until April that need to be filled as well as summer slots. Email Forrest White for any questions and to schedule at virginiaumvim@gmail.com.

Faithful Aging Conference set for March

Faithful Aging on Mar. 14, 2017, will be the first statewide, faith-based conference on aging addressing opportunities related to an aging congregation and meeting the needs of older members. Presented by the Beard Center on Aging at Lynchburg College and Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. (VUMH), this conference developed following listening sessions across the Virginia Conference to hear directly from clergy and laity about the needs of older adults in their congregations and communities. The Virginia Conference Older Adult Council is a Gold Sponsor for the event. A .5 CEU has been approved for Virginia Conference clergy and certified professionals as well as five hours of credit toward recertification for Lay Servants. Contact Martha Stokes directly by phone at (804) 474-8718 or email her at MStokes@vumh.org for more information. There is a registration form on the event under the conference calendar or you may register online at www.lynchburg.edu/beard.

Mentors needed for 2017 summer All God's Children camps

All God's Children Camp is in need of mentors for camp this summer. There are three opportunities this year to serve: June 18-23 at Camp Chanco on the James, June 25-30 at Camp Overlook and July 30-Aug. 4 at Occohannock on the Bay. Visit All God's Children page on the conference website for more information including a mentor and camper flyer. Email Lori Smith, camp director, at lttlelori@gmail.com with any questions.

Lay Servant Academy to be held March 31- April 2, 2017

The Lay Servant Academy is about equipping laity to carry out the mission of the church of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. All courses are open to everyone. Each course is designed to help those serving the local church to learn more about leadership, personal faith development and a deeper understanding of the UMC.

You may register for the Academy at <http://www.vaumc.org/LayServantTraining>. Direct registration questions to Sandy Kelley at sandkelle@yahoo.com and other questions to Beth Christian at bethchristian@vaumc.org.

Published weekly, the electronic *Sunday Advocate* summarizes news events affecting Virginia United Methodists and serves as a link to the in-depth reporting of the *Virginia United Methodist Advocate*, the official magazine of the Virginia Conference. To subscribe to the monthly *Virginia Advocate* magazine, call (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110; or e-mail Advocate@vaumc.org. Unless indicated, all news compiled courtesy of the *Virginia Advocate*, the weekly *e-Advocate* or United Methodist News Service.