



Pray for Bishop Lewis and Chat and Chew 2.0



Please PRAY FOR, **Bishop Lewis** and **Chat and Chew 2.0** on Saturday, January 6, as they focus on The Commission on the Way Forward -- unity and human sexuality, allowing lay and clergy voices across from four Districts -- Roanoke, Danville, Farmville and Lynchburg -- to engage directly in this conversation. **SORRY - THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT.**

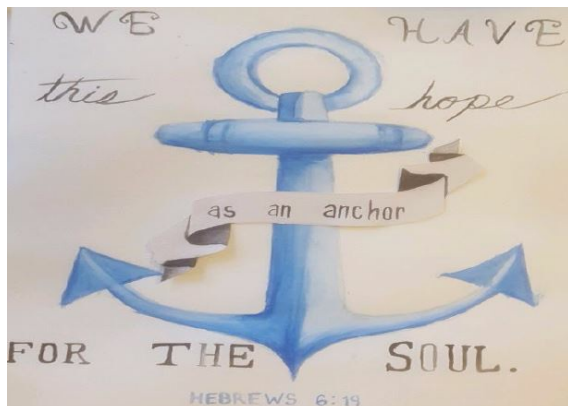
Apply Now For Board of Missions Grants

Each year the **Roanoke District Board of Missions and Church Extension** accepts grant applications in support of local church and community ministry programs and projects. Applications are now available on our website www.roanokeumc.org. For a fillable version, please contact the District Office at: RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org or call 540-989-3335. The deadline for all applications is Friday, January 19. Mark your calendars for the Board's Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 4 at 3 pm at Central UMC in Salem.

Anchor -- District Youth Retreat in February!

District Youth Retreat with Wesley at VA Tech February 9-11, 2018
"Anchor Your Heart and Mind to the Character of God" Hebrews 6: 19

The cost of the weekend is **just \$10 per person** and should be brought Friday night of the retreat. Checks should be payable to the Roanoke District UMC. Housing will be at Fieldstone UMC, 3385 North Franklin St, Christiansburg, again this year! The retreat will begin with check in on Friday evening and end after worship on Sunday. A detailed agenda and what to bring will be emailed after registration.



Questions or offers of help can be directed to **Rev. Bret Gresham** at: wesfound@vt.edu or **Paula Coker-Jones** at: pcjesj01@gmail.com. Remember each church's youth leaders are responsible for following their Safe Sanctuaries policies and having their church's "permission/contact" information with them. Wesley looks forward to welcoming you and your youth to what they hope is an awesome

experience.

REGISTER BEFORE JANUARY 31

<http://www.vtwesley.com/roanoke-district-youth-retreat>

Upcoming Events

Thursday, **Dec 14** - **District Office Christmas Open House** - 11 am - 2 pm

Dec 22 (at noon) - Dec 27 - District Office closed

Dec 29 (at noon) - January 1 - District Office closed

Saturday, **Jan 6** - **Chat N Chew 2.0 with Bishop Lewis** -- Bethlehem UMC, Moneta

Sunday, **Jan 14** - United Methodist Human Relations Day

Monday, **Jan 15** - District Office Closed

Friday, **Jan 19** - Final day to accept **2017 Apportionments** and deadline for the **District Board of Missions** grant applications.

Thursday, **Feb 1** - **District Ministers' Lunch**, 11:30 am, Amelia's, Christiansburg

Thursday, **Feb 1** - **UM Day at General Assembly**, Richmond

Friday-Sunday **Feb 9-11** - **Roanoke District Youth Retreat** at Wesley at VA Tech

Saturday, **Feb 17** - **Leadership Training**, 9 am - 12:30 pm - Greene Memorial UMC, Roanoke

Wednesday, **Feb 21** - **District Common Table**, 10 am Fieldstone UMC, Christiansburg

Saturday, **Feb 24** - **UMW Officer Training**, Cave Spring UMC

Thursday, **March 1** - **District Ministers' Lunch**, 11:30 am, Second Helpings, Roanoke

March 2-4, **Lay Servant Academy**, 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake

Sunday, **March 4**, **Board of Missions Annual Meeting**, 3 pm, Central UMC, Salem

Saturday, **March 11**, **5 Talent Academy**, 9 am - 3 pm, Fieldstone UMC, Christiansburg

Thursday, **April 5** - **District Ministers' Lunch**, 11:30 am, Amelia's, Christiansburg

Saturday, **April 21** - **Next Gen Summit**, Raleigh Court UMC

Saturday, **April 28** -- **Leading on the Edge**, 9 am - 3 pm -- Fieldstone UMC, Christiansburg

Details and future dates are at www.roanokeumc.org.

Back to Basics - Leadership Training Event - Feb 17

Roanoke District Common Table will sponsor **Back to Basics: Leadership Training** for all local church leaders. The general sessions will focus on leadership development and basic organizational skills. Breakout sessions will include workshop in the Ministry areas of Children, Youth, Youth Adult/Young Professionals, and Discipleship: Launching Small Groups. Additional sessions for Clergy in How to Lead Vision, and Planning your Plan (yearly calendar). 9:00 am-12:30 pm Greene Memorial UMC 402 Second Street, Roanoke, VA 24011.

Comfort & Joy - From our District Superintendent

Peppermint mocha, peppermint ice-cream, and "peppermint joy"...Which one is different from the others?

You might guess that peppermint mocha and



peppermint ice-cream are two of my favorite seasonal indulgences. But "peppermint joy"? What is that exactly? As a young child I thought the words to the chorus of a card were: "oh, tidings of peppermint joy, peppermint joy, oh, tidings of peppermint joy." Maybe the peppermint sticks made me think that. They were huge! They must have been an inch in diameter and perhaps a foot long; every child who had worn the short white robes and the large red silky bows in the choir received one after the annual candlelight card service was over. Perhaps I

simply misheard or misunderstood so that it made sense to me.

I still remember the shock I had as a young reader singing God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen from the hymnal for the first time and seeing the words: "oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, oh tidings of comfort and joy." I recall immediately feeling such a profound sense of embarrassment that I had not been singing the right words.

Appreciation for the gift of "comfort and joy" has dawned much more slowly in glimpses and snatches: a family gathered by an open grave for a funeral on Christmas Eve afternoon and then standing together at 11 pm candlelight service, tears streaming down their faces; a nursing home aide gently straightening twisted bed covers for an agitated resident, while speaking calm, gentle words of assurance; sharing coffee and pleading prayer in the palliative care waiting room; hearing and believing the hard truths spoken aloud in workplace meetings, neighborhood protests, boardroom mandates, and legislative actions.

These times of national posturing, global anxiety, community needs, natural disasters, and personal concerns awaken the daily need for "tidings of comfort and joy". The scriptures bear witness:

Comfort, comfort my people! says your God. (Isaiah 40:1)
The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.
You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy.
They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest. (Isaiah 9:2-3a)

As do the words of Isaac Watt's carol:

Joy to the world! the Lord is come. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.

Rejoicing in the Savior's birth,
 Kathleen

In November, I:

- Worshipped with First (Salem) UMC, Fincastle UMC, and Cave Spring UMC
- Participated in Peer Covenant Group
- Attended Ferrum Board of Trustees Meeting
- Convened 11 Annual Charge Conferences with 12 participating churches
- Attended the District UMW Prayer Breakfast
- Conducted a Meet Your Pastor with one SPPRC Committee
- Participated in the November Cabinet Meeting, the Bishop's Strategic Visioning Steering Committee Meeting, and the Life-long Learning Team Meeting
- Participated in Conference Common Table Meeting
- Met with the District Superintendency Committee for Annual Evaluation
- Convened the 150th Roanoke District Conference
- Chaired the Board of Missions Executive Committee Meeting
- Led annual District training for Staff/Pastor Parish Committees
- Facilitated the District Clergy Day Apart (*pictured above*)
- Consulted with laity and clergy in person, by phone, and through email

District Conference Summary

The 150th Roanoke District Conference
 was held on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at



Blacksburg UMC. The conference theme, **A New Thing**, celebrated music and ministry in our district and featured a Roanoke District choir comprised of members from 7 of our local churches.

Over \$400 was collected for United Methodist Committee of Relief (UMCOR), members of district committees and boards were elected.

At Large Delegates for Annual Conference 2018 were also elected: David Bates, Nathaniel Bishop, Sylvia Bishop, Beverly Bonderman, Warner Bonderman, Andree Brooks, Jan Failes, Gayle Graves, Alan Johnson, LaNora King, Cynthia Martin, Carrie Moffitt, Jacob Paysour, Rhonda Rogers, Wyatt Sasser, Nancy Sasser, Mary Sutphin, Terri Urquhart, Austin Wheeling, and Harvey Woodmansee.

In 2018, Brenda Brooks and Gary Morris will serve the Roanoke District as Co-Lay Leaders assisted by Judy Job as District Associate Lay Leader.

All reports, upcoming events, committees and nominations can be found in the District Conference Book of Reports at: <http://roanokeumc.org/docs/DisConf%20Booklet17.pdf>.

Please Pray For

Elwood Carwile who is hospitalized at Lewis Gale Medical Center in Salem for diagnostic tests. Also for his wife, **Peggy**, who is currently recovering from ongoing health concerns at Richfield Living in Salem. Elwood is a former Licensed Local Pastor on the Roanoke District who last served at Lafayette UMC.

Shane Krietz, grandson of **Rev. Lane Spigener**, (Pembroke Charge, Giles County). Shane is 14 years old and for the past two weeks has been undergoing medical tests for migraine headaches caused by excess buildup of spinal fluid. He is undergoing three spinal taps a day to relieve the pain. Shane and his mother will be at UVA Medical Center for further diagnosis and treatment. During this time Lane and his wife, Jean, will be caring for their other two grandchildren. And pray for Rev. Lane Spigener as he recovers from recent neck surgery.

Rev. C. Warner Crumb on the death of his wife, Martha, who passed away in November. Rev. Crumb is a retired Elder on our district.

Jean Fleischer, father of **Rev. Morris Fleischer** (Newport-Mt. Olivet, Giles County), in your prayers as he recovers from knee replacement surgery.

2018 Bible Challenge & Annual Conference Theme Announced



Read the Bible in 2018 - from Bishop Lewis-- As we come to the end of our 2017 Bible Challenge, I pray you have found this journey through the Bible uplifting and enriching. Bible study is very essential to building our faith. Through God's Word, we gain an understanding that God is the one who gives the gift of knowledge for us to live productive lives as believers. I would like to invite you again this year to read the **Bible chronologically** (in the order of events)." **The readings can be found here.**

Bishop Lewis announced that the theme for **Annual Conference 2018** in Hampton will be **"Servant Leaders Making a Difference."** The corresponding Bible verse is 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." More information will be released soon about the conference and the logo will be made available in the new year.

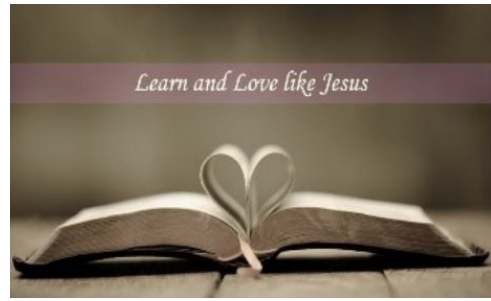
Lay Servant Academy at Smith Mountain Lake

2018 Lay Servant Academy March 2-4, 2018

<https://www.vaumc.org/2018LSA>
Sign up early to get the class you want!

4H Educational Conference Center
775 Hermitage Rd., Wirtz, VA
<http://retreatatsmithmountainlake.com/>

The Academy is about equipping lay persons to carry out the mission of the church. All of the courses are open to anyone and each course is designed to help those serving the local church learn more about leadership, personal faith development and a deeper understanding of The United Methodist church. The courses are also designed to support those seeking to become Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers. We are excited to be offering some new classes this year and fantastic worship as we fellowship, worship, pray, and Learn & Love like Jesus!



Questions? Beth Christian bethchristian@vaumc.org (804) 347-5999

College Students Can Intern at Churches Next Summer

Calling 21 is a Young Adult, Local Church Internship Program. It is a partnership ministry among the Virginia Conference Center for Clergy Excellence, the Cabinet, and Shenandoah University. This internship for college students lasts from mid-June to mid-August, the interns are housed with a host family in local congregations, and receive a \$3000 stipend. The purpose of the program is for college students to explore their calling. Next year, Calling 21 is from June 3 to August 7. Applications are due by February 1. Details are at [Calling 21](#).

Not Too Late to Register for Winter Camp Dec 20-22

Last chance to register for **Winter Camp 2017** (Dec 20-22)! Winter Camp is open to children in grades 2 through 12 and is only \$99 (camperships available making the cost as low as \$33/camper). Our theme is **"In The Light"** and campers will be learning about how Christ brought light to this world and how we can live "in the light" as Christians. Activities will include making crafts, attending worship, hiking to the (frozen?) falls, and maybe even zipping down the zipline (weather permitting), as well as much more. Campers will be sleeping in our **heated retreat facilities!** Register online at www.altamons.org/winter-camp or call 540-268-2409 for more information.



Summer Staff 2018? – Summer Staff applications are available and ready to be filled out! Do you know someone who would be interested in spending a summer in ministry at Alta Mons? If so, tell them to check out www.altamons.org/summer-staff for more information. You can even apply online!

Help Alta Mons Win – Help Alta Mons win FREE MONEY for printing! Simply go to <https://www.conquestgraphics.com/news/nonprofit-partners-2017/alta-mons> while you are logged on to your Facebook account and click the blue "like" button. Last year Alta Mons received \$500 in free printing through this program. Can we win \$1000 for 2018?

Hiring Year-Round Guest Services – Alta Mons is seeking a full-time Guest Services Coordinator to join our year-round staff. Do you enjoy connecting with people and have a passion for outdoor ministry? If so, learn more about this position on our [website](#).

Remember, Alta Mons is open to the public every day from sunrise to sunset. Come out for a hike to the falls or just a walk around camp. We have picnic tables for community use as well. We will be closed to the public during Winter Camp (Dec 20-22) but are otherwise open!

UMW 2018 -- Save These Dates!



Save the Dates -- Roanoke District 2018 UMW Dates

January 13: **District Executive Team Meeting**, 9:00 AM at The Roanoker Restaurant, Colonial Ave, Roanoke (snow date is January 20)

February 24: **District UMW Officer Training** 9:00 AM at Cave Spring UMC, 4505 Hazel Drive, Roanoke. (snow date is March 3)

April 14: **District Spiritual Life Retreat** at Crockett Springs UMC and Alta Mons, Camp and Retreat Center, Shawsville.

June 21: **District Team Finance Meeting**, 9:30 AM at Northview UMC, Roanoke

August 26: **Open Executive Committee Meeting** at 3:00 PM at St. Mark's UMC, Daleville.

October 7: **District Annual Meeting**, 3:00 PM at West End UMC, Roanoke

November 3: **District Prayer Breakfast**, 8:30 AM First UMC, Salem

Merry Christmas and many blessings,
Phyllis Geoghegan, District UMW President

phyllisg9@verizon.net 382-1545

100% Apportionments Paid for 2017

100% Conference and District

(as of Nov 30, 2017)

Andrew Chapel

Lawrence Memorial

Asbury

Locust Grove

Buchanan Charge (Lithia and Trinity)

Mount Elbert

Calvary, Christiansburg

Mount Olivet

Catawba Charge (McDonald's Mill & Shiloh)

Mount Tabor

Ebenezer

New Castle Charge (Bethel)

Fairview

Pembroke Charge (Mt. Lebanon)

Foothills Charge (Mt. Pleasant, Pierce Chapel)

Three Oaks Fellowship

Goodwin Memorial

White Memorial

Halls

100% District

Crockett Springs

Trinity, Roanoke

The **Virginia Conference Treasurer's** office prepares a short newsletter, **Dollars and Sense**, each month with helpful information about your church finances.

Common Table Awards Media Grants



The following churches recently received grants from the **Roanoke District Common Table** for advertising and social media promotions during the Advent/Christmas season: Belview, Blacksburg, Cave Spring, Greene Memorial, Huntington Court, Lafayette, Newport-Mt. Olivet, Raleigh Court, St. Mark's, Southview, Thrasher Memorial, and Woodlawn.

Local Churches and Organizations Invite You ...

Friday, Dec 15 from 6 - 8 PM, join the community at the MLK, Jr. Bridge to celebrate the season in song and love at **Bridging the Community Gap**. A canned good is appreciated.

Wednesday, Dec 20 at 11 am, **A Service of Remembrance and Hope**, Greene Memorial UMC, downtown Roanoke. The public is invited to this worship service to commemorate the lives of the homeless members of our community who died this past year and will be a time of hope and recognition of our community's efforts to end homelessness.

Tuesday, April 24 - **Faithful Aging Conference**, Williamsburg UMC, sponsored by Pinnacle Living and the Beard Center for Aging at Lynchburg College. Addressing opportunities related to an aging congregation and meeting the needs of older adults, including those with dementia, inside and outside the walls of our faith communities.

Bridging THE Community Gap
December 15th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge
 Near the Roanoke Higher Education Center

Come help us spread peace and joy through song this special night where we all come together as one community.
 Bring your friends and a canned good donation!

For more information, contact Troy Gusler at troygusler@tapintoahope.org or 540.767.6030.
 Metrose-Rugby, Loudon-Metrose, Hurt Park

Last Month for Mailed Newsletters

This is the last time the District Office will be mailing a printed newsletter to people without email addresses. This will help save resources and allow more flexibility in our communications. A PDF version of each newsletter is uploaded to [our website](#). We ask the assistance of all those receiving the newsletter by email to share the information with those who may not have access to it.



May the Gift of Christ fill your hearts, this Christmas and always.

Your District Office Staff



(l to r) **Cindy Martin**, Office Manager, **Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster**, District Superintendent and **Jan McCall Failes**, Office Assistant



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Phone: 540-989-3335 Fax: 989-0672

Sharma D. Lewis Area Bishop

Kathleen Overby Webster District Superintendent RoanokeDS@vaumc.org

Brenda Brooks District Lay Leader

Judy Job & Gary Morris Associate District Lay Leaders

Cynthia T. Martin Office Manager/Bookkeeper RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org

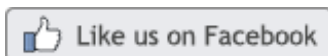
Jan McCall Failes Office Assistant RoanokeOA@vaumc.org

Please submit newsletter articles by the 1st of the month

Email: RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org Web: www.roanokeumc.org

Facebook:

[Roanoke District United Methodist Church](#)



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STAY CONNECTED:

