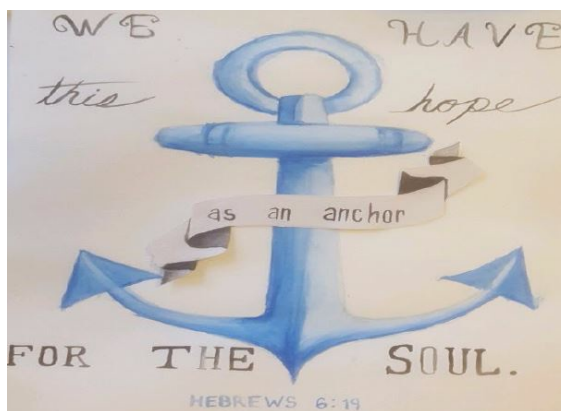




Anchor -- District Youth Retreat in February!

District Youth Retreat with Wesley at VA Tech Feb 9-11 "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>

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.

Chat and Chew 2.0 Videos Online

Bishop Sharma Lewis led worship and a discussion on "The Commission on a Way Forward," for laity and clergy four districts (Roanoke, Danville, Farmville, and Lynchburg) on January 6 at Bethlehem UMC in Moneta, at the Chat and Chew 2.0. Two videos are available. Click for [Part One](#) - the Bishops' opening remarks, providing a timeline and context of "The Way Forward" and click [Part Two](#) - for Worship, featuring the Bishop's sermon, "The Greatest Prayer Ever Prayed".



Bishop Lewis with Rev. Robert Stutes (Mt Pleasant UMC- Roa) and Rev. Doug Sassar (Northview UMC) before the opening session.



Bishop Lewis (center) with Rev. Jeane Dunkum (Lafayette UMC) and Rev. Melanie Franklin (Ebener UMC) and Mays Memorial UMC) on her left.

Upcoming Events

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

Sat, **Jan 20** - **Bishop's Convocation on Faith, Science & Ministry**, St. Marks UMC, Daleville

February - **Heart Havens Month**, a Virginia Conference Advance Special

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

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 10**, **5 Talent Academy**, 9 am - 3 pm, Fieldstone UMC, Christiansburg

Saturday, **March 17**, **Paul Bunyan Day**, 9 am, **Alta Mons**, Shawsville

Saturday, **March 17**, **VBS Preview Workshop**, 9 -11:30 am, Greene Memorial UMC, Roanoke

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

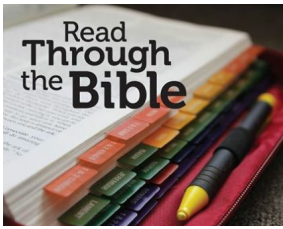
Saturday, **April 21** - **Next Gen Summit**, Raleigh Court UMC

Tuesday, **April 24** - **Faithful Aging Conference**, Williamsburg UMC, Williamsburg

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

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

Read the Bible in the Order of Events!



Read the Bible in 2018 - from Bishop Lewis-Bible

"Study is 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.](#)

Unexpected - From our District Superintendent

For years we've had a magnet on the side of our refrigerator with the saying "Memories give us roses in December". I think someone gave it to us over thirty years ago, that first Christmas following the deaths of Harold's mother and my father.

Well, it wasn't "roses in December" but there was no doubt that our rhododendron was blooming just days before Christmas, until the first blast of bitter cold descended.



These lavender blooms, flowering amid fallen autumn leaves as winter arrived, were a surprising sign of life in a season of dormancy, of fertility amid barrenness, and a bit of unexpected color in a seasonal landscape.

What surprising sign has caught your eye? Where is God at work in unexpected ways? What small signs of new opportunity, new life, or new hope are already visible? Could your ministry be that sign to someone, some place, or some community?

Lift up your eyes and look around...
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice... (Isaiah 60: 4a; 5a, CEB)

Faithfully,
Kathleen

In December, I:

- Worshipped with with Three Oaks Fellowship UMC
- Conducted 24 Annual Clergy Consultations
- Participated in the December Cabinet Meeting and Christmas Celebration
- Participated the Bishop's Strategic Visioning Team Meeting, and the Life-long Learning Team Meeting
- Enjoyed the annual District Office Open House
- Consulted with laity and clergy in person, by phone, and through email
- Enjoyed holiday and vacation time with family

Please Pray For

Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant as Lynne's mother, **Barbara Alley**, passed away recently in Lexington, South Carolina after battling Alzheimer's. Lynne is an Elder in the Virginia Conference on Extension Ministry in the Roanoke District.

The family of **Peggy Ratliff Carwile**, the wife of **Elwood Carwile**, who passed away in early January after a long illness. Elwood is a retired local pastor in our district, who last served at Lafayette UMC.

Mrs. Betsy Whisenant, mother of **Rev. Kelly Shushok**, as Betty recovers from major cardiac surgery in Texas. Kelly is a local pastor serving at Blacksburg UMC.

This request comes from **Rev. Doug Mitchell**, pastor of the Buchanan Charge (Lithia UMC and Trinity UMC). ... Three lives were lost in a house fire on Dec 30 in Lithia, two young boys and a very sweet woman. The house is directly behind Lithia UMC so we all saw what was left of it Sunday morning as we came to church. The family, the Secrist's, are members of Trinity UMC in

Buchanan. The house, everything is a total loss. Lithia UMC has set up a fund for the Secrist family. Donations are being collected at any Bank of Botetourt branch or donation maybe sent payable to Lithia UMC by mail to: Lithia UMC, C/O Bank of Botetourt, P.O. Box 615, Troutville, VA. 24175. Please keep the Secrist family in prayer as well as the Buchanan community as this tragedy has touched all of the community. For additional information on assisting this family please contact him directly at DougMitchell@vaumc.org.

Shane Krietz, 14-year old grandson of Rev. Lane Spigener, (Pembroke Charge, Giles County), who continues medical outpatient treatment at UVA Medical Center.

Lay Servant Academy at Smith Mountain Lake

2018 Lay Servant Academy March 2-4, 2018

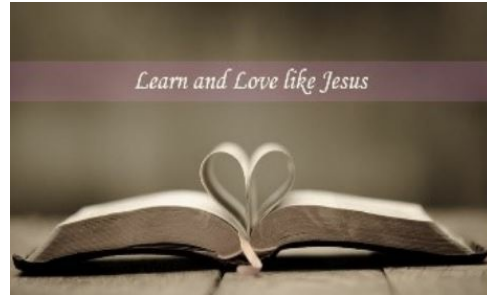
<https://www.vaumc.org/2018LSA>

Sign up early to get the class you want!

4H Educational Conference Center

775 Hermitage Rd., Wirtz, VA (Smith Mtn Lake)

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! Contact Beth Christian for information - bethchristian@vaumc.org (804) 347-5999.



Next Gen Summit for Volunteers, Workers and Pastors

The first **Next Gen Summit** will be April 21, with six locations in Virginia, including Raleigh Court UMC in Roanoke. The summit will feature **Growing Young** co-author Jake Mulder, who will show pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the whole church. The Summit will also include lunch and workshops. Check the [website](#) for registration and details.



Paul Bunyan Day & Summer Camp Registration



A huge thank you to everyone who helped make **Winter Camp** possible! We were able to serve 82 campers and everyone had a great time learning about living "in the light." Numerous volunteers made Winter Camp possible, from driving kids to camp in UMC vans, serving as nurses and chaplains, and all of our counselors worked Winter Camp as volunteers. Winter Camp 2018 will be December 20-22, so go ahead

and mark your calendars for this great event!

Summer Camp 2018 registration will open on January 18th! Our brochure will be available online then and paper copies will be mailed out by the end of January to past campers and churches/Lay Leaders/AM Reps. Please call 540-268-2409 or e-mail office@altamons.org with any questions! We will run 4 weeks of camp, starting Sunday June 24 and ending Friday July 20.

We'll be offering day camp, mini camp, week long resident camp, and a new adventure camp that includes an off-site backpacking trip!

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!

Paul Bunyan Day is just around the corner! Meet at Alta Mons at 9 AM on **Saturday March 17th** to help us gear up for spring and summer! We have a variety of different jobs available and there's something for everyone! Lunch will be served to all volunteers that day for FREE! We hope to see you there!

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. *photo right -- Stiles Falls were frozen for the Summer Staff reunion in early January.*

Meredith Simmons, Program Director
office 540-268-2409 or www.altamons.org



District Leadership Training - April 28 and More!

Save the date for **"LEADING ON THE EDGE"** -- New Way of Doing an Old Thing. Focusing on today's issues, we will have guest speakers in the areas of: Poverty and Homelessness; Mental Health; Religion & Race; and LGBTQ. \$10.00 cost with lunch provided 9 am - 3 pm Fieldstone UMC 3385 North Franklin St., Christiansburg, VA 24073. Sponsored by the Roanoke District Common Table. CEU approval is pending.

The District Training event planned for February 17, has been cancelled to focus on this April 28 event. A wide-variety of training options for laity and clergy are featured in the ["Lifelong Learning Events"](#) section on the District website.

District UMW 2018 -- Save These Dates!



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 Mtg**, 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

Phyllis Geoghegan, District UMW President

phyllisg9@verizon.net 382-1545

Youth Mission/Music Team Travels to Poland & More

Apply for Voices Of Youth 2018! Do you enjoy serving and music? Would you like to travel while getting the chance to make a difference? Would you like to explore your faith while

connecting with other youth? Here's your chance to do all that and more. [Voices of Youth](#), a Virginia UMC Conference program, is now accepting application for our 2018 mission. We will be traveling to Poland (June 22- July 9) as we work with UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) on several different projects. Once we finish our mission work, we will return to Virginia to share our story with the churches in the VA Conference. Voices of Youth is open to rising 9th grade through college students. Download [the online application](#), and apply before the January 31 deadline to share the love of Christ next summer! Contact coordinator Ryan Brown, VoicesofYouth@vaumc.org for more information.

Convergence: Where Faith and Science Meet is a 9-day program (June 23-July 1, 2018) that allows rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students to come to Randolph-Macon's campus in Ashland, Va., and learn about the **intersection of science and Christian faith**. They will dive deeper into their religious beliefs and deeper into the study of science. The cost to participate is only \$100 for this 9-day program. Upon high school graduation, if a Convergence participant chooses to attend Randolph-Macon, they will receive a \$1,000 annual scholarship for each year they participated in [Convergence](#). If you would like to nominate a participant, [click here](#). The application form for participants is [available here](#). Contact the Rev. Kendra Grimes or Laura Ruxton (convergence@rmc.edu) with any questions.

The Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute (SUyti) is a 14-day immersive experience for rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, July 15-28, 2018. The program is designed to educate and inspire young Christians to become better leaders in their local congregations through deep and thought-provoking experiences at the **intersection of faith and justice**. Upon completion of the institute (and a self-determined justice project in their local faith community) students earn three undergraduate credits from Shenandoah University. Because of the generous subsidy from the Lilly Endowment, the cost is only a \$50 registration fee. Pastors and Youth Leaders can [nominate youth](#). Students can apply from the [website](#) or by using this [form](#). Contact the Rev. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger with any questions (cpreunin@su.edu).

Local Churches and Organizations Invite You ...

Sunday, Feb 18, 3-4:30 pm, **The Safety of the House of Worship**. Pastors and church leaders are invited to this training with a local police officer, on how to keep the church from shooting and other violence. [St. Paul UMC](#), 220 W Main St, Christiansburg.

Sunday, Feb 25, 3 pm, **Free Concert featuring the Washington and Lee University Singers**, at [South Roanoke UMC](#), 2330 South Jefferson St, Roanoke.

100% Apportionments Paid for 2017

The Conference and District offices are still accepting 2017 apportionments until January 19, 2018, so the final list will be published in the next newsletter.

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

E-News Only -- Please Share

This is the first month that the Roanoke District is ONLY preparing an emailed newsletter. Please share with the leaders in your church that do not have email. A PDF version, for printing, is always available on the website. www.roanokeumc.org.



4502 Starkey Road, Suite 101, Roanoke, VA
24018

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

Sharma D. Lewis Area Bishop

Kathleen Overby Webster District Superintendent RoanokeDS@vaumc.org

Brenda Brooks & Gary Morris District Co-Lay Leaders

Judy Job Associate District Lay Leader

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

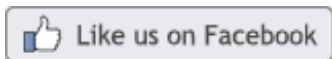
Jan McCall Failes Office Assistant RoanokeOA@vaumc.org

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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