

Roanoke United Methodist District March 2018 E-News



Board of Missions Meets Sunday, March 4 at 3 pm at Central UMC

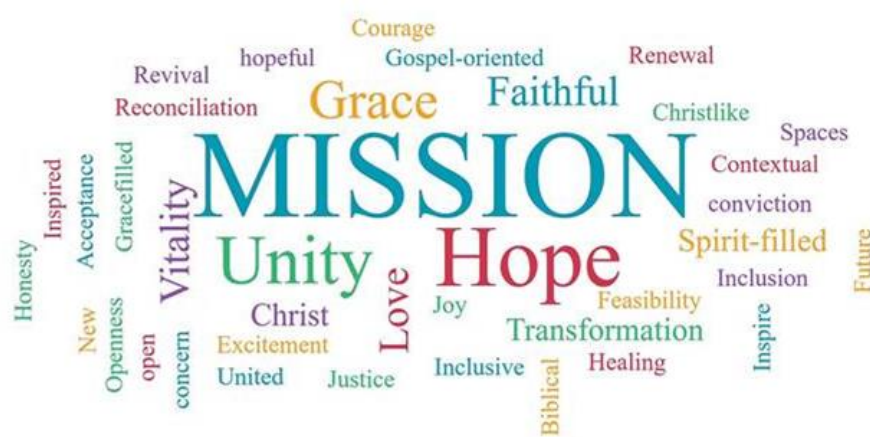


The **Annual Meeting of the Board of Missions and Church Extension, Inc.** will be held at Central United Methodist Church, 428 S. College Ave, Salem 24153 on Sunday, March 4 at 3:00 pm. Each pastor/associate pastor and **one elected lay representative from each charge** comprise the Board of this Corporation and have voice and vote. Others are welcome to attend. In addition to the minutes of the 2017 meeting, and current financial information, the report of the Executive Committee, including recommended grants for 2018 will be received and acted on.

Save the Date - Leading on the Edge

Save the date for "**LEADING ON THE EDGE**" – New Way of Doing An Old Thing. Focusing on today's issues and ministry, there will be guest speakers on: Poverty and Homelessness; Ministry and Mental Health; Religion and Race; and Human Sexuality. \$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's approval is pending.

Commission on a Way Forward



Click here to links to resources and videos about the ongoing work of [The Commission on a Way Forward](#). The word cloud (above) is from the conclusion of the recent meeting of the Commission on a Way Forward, when the members were asked to share three words that expressed their prayer for the church.

Bishops' Lenten Challenge

For the **Lenten Season** that started on **Ash Wednesday**, February 14, bishops are asking Methodists to engage in spiritual disciplines that include praying, fasting and sharing their resources with others in their communities. In a message sent on behalf of UMC bishops ([Click here](#) for the letter) to **United Methodists** throughout the world, Council of Bishops President Bishop Bruce R. Ough challenged fellow Christians to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' words in Mark 8:34-35:

*"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my
sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."*

S/PPRC Appointment/ Transition Video

Please [click here](#) to view a video by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis about the appointment process and Staff/ Pastor Parish relations issues.

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, Feb 21 - **District Common Table**, 10 am [Fieldstone UMC](#), Christiansburg

Saturday, Feb 24 - **UMW Officer Training**, 9 am, Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke

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

Sunday, March 11, [UMCOR SUNDAY](#)

Sunday, March 12, [Mid-Size Church Training](#), Mountain View UMC, Forest

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](#), Roanoke

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.

Seeing the Signs - *From the District Superintendent*

It's not that we didn't notice the sign, it's more that we didn't fully understand what it conveyed. We left a cabin in West Virginia and made our way along a rutted, former logging road, then we had a choice. We could turn right and take the narrow paved road down the mountain, cross the river, that still bore signs of the flooding from the previous year's hurricane, and turn onto the main highway that would carry us back to Virginia. Or we could turn left and take the "back way" that went around and down the other side of the mountain, cross a "dry-weather bridge", and connect to the highway 25 miles further east. We had taken both roads before. On that February day we turned left. It was sunny, and cold. But there was no snow on the ground and it had been several weeks since it had snowed in that area. So, as we drove we did not realize the importance of the "Road Not Maintained in Winter" sign mounted in the gravel edge where the road narrowed. We were quite a ways down the mountain before we hit the first patch of ice. Soon the whole road was completely ice and snow and cell service non-existent. It was a scary ride, even with 4-wheel drive engaged, slowly inching forward, slipping to one side then another.



How deep our sighs of thanksgiving when the road leveled out, the snow and ice melted away, and the bridge crossing came into sight. It seemed miraculous; we had not slid off the road, into a ditch, or down a hill into a tree. How wonderful it felt to finally stop for dinner and celebrate that we had made it! And we had learned what the sign meant!

Sometimes as a church leader I find that I am unsure what the signs around me mean. What about you? Are there signs of need in your community that you are seeing but not fully comprehending? Are there signs of hope in your community that you are oblivious to? Are there signs of racial, economic, or educational barriers being broken that you are not fully attuned to. Are there signs of spiritual despair that you should pay attention to? Are there signs of spiritual awakening, growth, or engagement that you should notice? Where do you see signs that God is at work, that Jesus has shown-up, that the Holy Spirit is on the move? What are the signs that God is beckoning you, inviting you, urging you to do, say, believe, become?

Faithfully,
Kathleen
In January I:

- Worshipped with the Intersections service of Blacksburg UMC and led a Vespers Service at the Hermitage
- Attended Bishop Lewis' Cluster Chat and Chew 2.0 for the Danville, Farmville, Lynchburg, and Roanoke Districts
- Conducted 40 Annual Clergy Consultations
- Consulted with several Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee
- Participated in the January Cabinet Meeting
- Participated the Bishop's Strategic Visioning Team Meeting
- Attended the "Train the Trainers" Session with District Common Table Leadership Development Team leaders
- Participated in the District Committee on Ordained Ministry meeting
- Participated in the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry meeting, focused on interviewing candidates for ordination
- Consulted with laity and clergy in person, by phone, and through email

2018 Annual Conference June 15 - 17



Servant Leaders Making a Difference – The clergy and laity sessions for **Annual Conference** will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 15 at the **Hampton Roads Convention Center**. Tom Berlin will give a presentation on the **Commission on a Way Forward** at 9 am Friday morning. There will not be a Saturday afternoon session as this time will be "[A Great Day of Service](#)" in the Hampton Roads area and people will register for their service choice.

Come to "Waters of Grace" at Alta Mons



Summer Camp 2018 registration is OPEN for "Waters of Grace"! Check out the [brochure online](#) to see all of our camp offerings. **New this year:** Backpacking Camp! We have options for kids in grades K-12, starting Sunday June 24 and ending Friday July 20. If you have questions, please call [540-268-2409](tel:540-268-2409) or email office@altamons.org and we will be happy to help you!

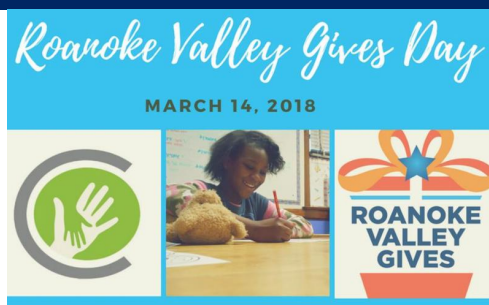
Summer Staff applications are available and ready to be filled out! Do you know someone who would be interested in spending a summer in ministry at Alta Mons? If so, tell them to check out www.altamons.org/summer-staff for more information.

Alta Mons is seeking a full-time [Guest Services Coordinator](#) (click here) to join our year-round staff. Alta Mons is also looking to hire housekeeping and kitchen staff. For more information, please contact Ronda Wimmer at [540-268-2409](tel:540-268-2409).

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!

Our **6th Annual District Cookout** will be Saturday August 25. To connect with our summer theme, **Waters of Grace**, we will be having a District-wide "Remember Your Baptism" event that same day during worship. This will also be a chance for those who have never been baptized to do so (please bring your pastor). More details to come, but mark your calendars for this great day of fellowship, worship, and enjoying all that [Alta Mons](#) has to offer. [540-268-2409](tel:540-268-2409)

Community Outreach Program - COP



The Community Outreach Program (COP), a mission of the Roanoke UMC District for at-risk children, is a participant in Roanoke Valley Gives Day on March 14th. **Roanoke Valley Gives** day is a 24 hour event to raise money for local non profits. Gifts can be scheduled ahead of time [here](#). Your gift helps support our mission of improving the lives children and their families.

Candace Hess communityoutreachroanokeclp@gmail.com

100% of 2017 Apportionments Paid

Thank you to all the **Roanoke District Churches** who have paid 100% of Conference and District apportionments. As a connectional church, these funds unite us with brothers and sisters throughout the world to make Disciples of Christ:

Andrew Chapel; Asbury; Belview; Blacksburg; Boones Mill; Buchanan-Lithia and Trinity; Calvary-Christiansburg; Catawba-Catawba, McDonald's Mill, and Shiloh; Cave Spring; Central; Crockett Springs; Eagle Rock- Bethel, Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, and Shiloh; Ebenezer, Fairview. First-Salem, Floyd Parish- Copper Hill, Havens Chapel, Huffville, and Stonewall; Foothills- Mt. Pleasant and Pierce Chapel; Goodwin Memorial; Grace; Halls; Huntington Court; Lafayette; Lawrence Memorial; Locust Grove; Mays Memorial; Mount Elbert; Mount Olivet; Mount Pleasant – Roanoke; Mount Tabor; New Castle- Bethel and New Castle; Newport-Mount Olivet; Park;

Parrish Chapel; Pembroke-First and Mt. Lebanon; Prices Fork; Raleigh Court; Rockingham Court; St. Marks; St. Paul, Christiansburg; St. Paul, Roanoke; Southview; Thrasher Memorial; Three Oaks Fellowship; Trinity-Christiansburg; West End; White Memorial; Windsor Hills.

Prayer Requests

With much joy we share the news from Jake and Joanna Paysour of the birth of their son, Joseph James Paysour, on February 1. Rev. Joanna M. Paysour, is the associate pastor at Cave Spring UMC in Roanoke. Joseph is welcomed by grandparents, **Rev. Doug and Mrs. Gail Paysour** (pastor of Windsor Hills UMC) and Dr. Joe and Mrs. Marjorie Marcy (members of Blacksburg UMC).



Tunk Carswell, father of **Rev. Warren Carswell** (Southview UMC, Roanoke), who is undergoing treatment in for a brain aneurism caused by high blood pressure.

Rev. Don Baldwin, pastor of Fairview UMC in Roanoke, and his wife Jackie, as he begins kidney dialysis in anticipation of a kidney transplant in the future.

Rev. April Hall who was hospitalized with the flu and pneumonia and is recovering at her home at Carrington Place in Daleville. April is an Elder from the South Carolina Conference on medical leave in the Roanoke area.

Loretta Garner and her family. Loretta has recently traveled from Roanoke to Florida to be with her son who has been diagnosed cancer and is now in critical condition. She is the widow of Rev. Robert "Bob" Garner.

Congratulations to **Rev. Seung Hae Yoo-Hess**, pastor of Rockingham Court UMC, who has been recommended for Ordination as Elder at Annual Conference; and to **Rev. Tim Craft**, Director of Next Gen Ministry at Cave Spring UMC, who has been recommended for Ordination as Deacon at Annual Conference.

Congratulations to the **Wesley Foundation at VA Tech** for leading the **District Youth** retreat last weekend, with over 200 participants!



Training & Other Events

UM Communications invites you to a [Social Media for Churches LIVE Q&A](#) on Tuesday, February 27 at 1 pm (ET). Click on the link for info and registration.

The **Lay Servant Academy**, March 2-4, 4H Center at Smith Mountain Lake, is about equipping lay persons to carry out the mission of the church. Contact Beth Christian

- bethchristian@vaumc.org (804) 347-5999. [Click for registration info.](#)

"Beyond Sunday School: Empowering Regular folks to lead a God Movement", featuring Rachel Billups, **5 Talent Academy**, Saturday, March 10, Fieldstone UMC, Christiansburg. [Register online.](#)

Midsize Church Pastor Training, led by Phil Maynard, Monday, March 12, Mountain View UMC, Forest, VA. [Register online.](#)

VBS Preview Workshop, Saturday, March 17, 9- 11:30 am, Greene Memorial UMC. This workshop dives deep into all 5 sessions as well as crafts, science, Bible stories and more, with one-day sales, and free products. Free. [Register online.](#)

Bishop's Convocation on Race and Reconciliation, April 14 at Annandale UMC with keynote speaker Romal Tune. The convocation will empower participants to become life-long learning disciples who will be able to conduct the difficult conversations we all need to have related to issues of racial division, justice, and God's call to ministries of reconciliation and peace. [Learn More and Register](#)

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. Check the [website](#) for registration and details.



Local Churches & Organizations Invite You

Sunday, Feb 18, 3 - 4:30 pm, **The Safety of House of Worship**, church leaders are invited to education on how to keep church from shooting and other violence, at St. Paul UMC, 220 W. Main St, Christiansburg.

Sunday, Feb 18, 7 pm, **Southern Virginia University Acapela Group in concert**, at Cave Spring UMC, 4505 Hazel Dr, Roanoke. A love-offering will be taken.

Feb 21 - March 28, 6 - 8 pm, **From Confession to Communion**, A Lenten Series to imagine how privilege can be transformed into connection in our desire to "Build Community in Roanoke", co-sponsored by Greene Memorial UMC. Hosted at First Baptist Church Gainsboro, 310 N Jefferson St, with soup and sandwiches.

Saturday, Feb 24, 9 am, **Days for Girls Project** work day, Northview UMC, 521 Ridgecrest Dr SW at Plantation Rd. Putting together sanitary kits for girls. Contact Lynn Bryant 353-3372 or nlbryant@cox.net for detailed information.

Summer Interns Wanted - **Project SPY** is a ministry of Fieldstone UMC, where each week up to 100 youth come to be the hands and feet of God in the New River Valley.

Interns will be college-aged staff who love God and are passionate about working with youth – Kitchen Intern, Construction Intern, Worship Leader, and Construction Director. Contact fieldstoneumc@gmail.com or call [540-260-3402](tel:540-260-3402) to apply. [Click here for more information.](#)

UMW Officer Training Event Feb 24

Saturday, February 24 at 9 am (*snow date March 3*)

Cave Spring UMC, 4505 Hazel Dr, Roanoke 24018

Please, unit officers, attend and be ready to complete your membership information as of January 1, 2017. Also be ready to discuss **Living into our Purpose** forms so we can increase our participation in spiritual growth, supportive fellowship and concepts of mission. Bring your **Prayer Calendars**, list of concerns and your Passion for the Lord.



Don't forget! **District Spiritual Life Retreat April 14** at Crockett Springs UMC and Alta Mons, Camp and Retreat Center, Shawsville.

Phyllis Geoghegan, District UMW President phyllisg9@verizon.net 382-1545



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

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[Visit our website](#)

