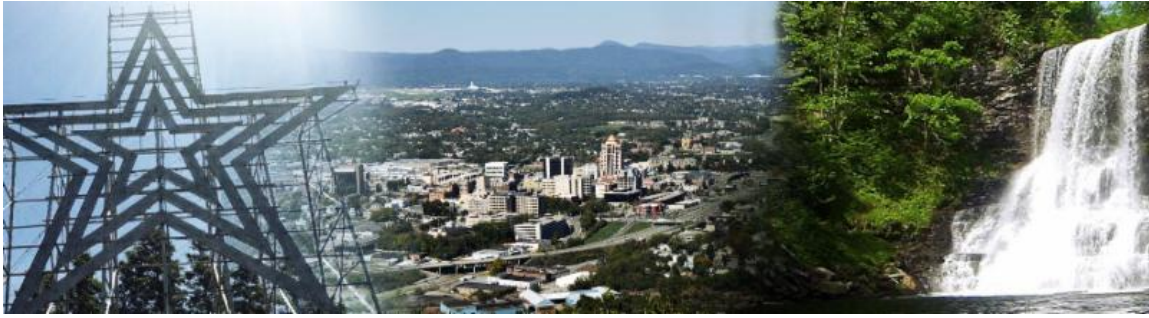


Roanoke United Methodist District

E-News June 2018 (5-15-18)



Posture of Prayer

*A Message from our
District Superintendent*



I was immediately struck by two photos I recently saw. One was of Bishop Sharma Lewis praying at the Western Wall (top photo) in Jerusalem during her recent Holy Land Pilgrimage. Another was taken in Chicago (photo below) as she led the Council of Bishops in prayer at the close of a working session. In both pictures, it was her posture of prayer that struck me.

At the Western Wall, her hands and forehead were pressed against the ancient stones as she fully leaned into the holy space. In the ballroom turned meeting room in Chicago, she was leaning forward on her knees, elbows planted on the chair seat in front of her. In her hands she clenched the microphone, but even through the static camera lens I could see the way her whole being was involved in the prayer. It was an extraordinary picture even as the camera panned out to include other bishops in the photo frame, some knelt with heads bowed, while some remained seated with arms uplifted.

Now that the Council of Bishops has released its report to the 2019 Called General Conference and the focus of discernment and decision shifts to those elected delegates, I am going to recall these photos of prayer. Prayer at places marked by historic and ongoing conflict. Prayer among people formed into community despite real theological and ecclesiological differences. Prayer that involves the whole being, body, mind, and spirit. Prayer that leans into the holiness of God in the midst of barriers and brokenness. Prayer that reveals an openness to the on-going work of the Holy Spirit.

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. (James

Faithfully,
Kathleen

In April I:

- Worshipped with Northview UMC, First (Salem) UMC (as part of their *Deep Water* weekend), and Trinity (Roanoke) UMC (as they celebrated the 31st anniversary of the Third Street Coffeehouse Ministry)
- Enjoyed lunch with the Roanoke District Ministers Association
- Participated in Peer Covenant Group
- Enjoyed Reading to children in the Community Outreach Program
- Participated the Bishop's Strategic Visioning Steering Team Meeting and Strategic Visioning Collaboration Team
- Participated in the April appointment-making focused Cabinet Meeting
- Participated in Board of Ordained Ministry Advisory Team meeting
- Served on the Leadership Team for the *Deep Water* Weekend at First (Salem) UMC
- Attended Wesley at VT Board Meeting
- Attended Ministers Convocation
- Participated in *Leading on the Edge* District Leadership Event
- Conducted Meet Your Pastor Sessions with three Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Cttes
- Celebrated the wonderful work of our District Administrative Professionals: Cindy Martin and Jan McCall Failes
- Consulted with laity and clergy in person, by phone, and through email

Council of Bishops (COB) Releases Recommendations on the Commission on a Way Forward

View the Council of Bishops [press release](#) (PDF).

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis shares her thoughts about the recommendations that the Council of Bishops (COB) will submit to the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019. (*video released May 7, 2018*)
<https://vimeo.com/268425848>

View [Bishop Ough's video](#) about the "One Church Plan".

Votes on Constitutional Amendments Announced

On May 7, the Council of Bishops announced results of five constitutional amendments; two fail to get required two-thirds majority. View the Council of Bishops [press release](#) (PDF) on the constitutional amendments. View [UMNS article](#) on the amendments. However, an error in the wording of Amendment #1 will force a re-vote, according to a May 11 UMNS [press release](#).

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis [responds](#) to votes on constitutional amendments.

Annual Conference - Hampton June 15-17



ORIENTATION for Annual Conference Delegates -- Sunday, June 3 at 3 pm, St Paul UMC, 220 W. Main St, Christiansburg.

SIGN UP FOR SERVICE -- “Servant Leadership - Making a Difference.” Following the Mission Service on Saturday, June 16, Bishop Lewis is asking all clergy and lay members to sign up and participate in a **Great Day of Service from 2 to 5 p.m.** This event will be broken into three sections: ministry within the City of Hampton, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kit building in the convention center, and presentations on social justice issues at the convention center. Each participant will receive a T-shirt to be worn during the Great Day of Service. How will you help create an impact on the Hampton Roads area with your service?

KITS FOR CONFERENCE -- There is currently an appeal from UMCOR for Hygiene, School, and Cleaning Kits **only**. [Click here for the complete list of items and instructions on packing each kit.](#)

DANCERS WANTED - Are you involved in a liturgical dance ministry or love to dance? There is an opportunity to participate in the Worship Service on Friday, June 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Annual Conference in Hampton. Please email to dance@vaumc.org no later than June 1, 2018.

Annual Conference details (kits, housing, service opps)



A Children's Mission Event June 28-29 at Greene Memorial UMC

Helping Hands is an exciting two-day mission experience for children (rising 4th through 6th Graders) offered to the VA Conference of the UMC.

Come, learn and do missions and the importance of being a caring Christian. The cost is only \$36 per person -- including a T-shirt, meals, snacks, and an overnight stay. (sleeping on the floor and do not have shower facilities). Each church is responsible for bringing their own chaperones.

Possible Hands-On: * Food Bank & Pack-a-Snack Bags * Yard Work at parks/schools * Habitat Store * Nursing Home visits *SPCA* Community Garden*

[Greene Memorial UMC](#), 402 2nd St SW, Roanoke 24011

Contact: Debbie Brown at debbieb@gmumc.org

Information & Registration PDF

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, May 19 - Virginia Conference UMC [Immigration Summit](#)
Friday, May 25 - District Office closes at noon (start of summer hours)
Sunday, May 27 - [Peace with Justice Sunday](#)
Monday, May 28 - District Office closed for Memorial Day
Saturday, June 2 - UMW Day at Ferrum
Sunday, June 3 - **Annual Conference Orientation**, 3 pm, St Paul UMC, Christiansburg
June 15-17 - [Annual Conference](#) in Hampton, VA
Wednesday, June 27 - **Clergy Moving Day**
Sunday, June 24 - [Summer Camp](#) begins at **Alta Mons**, Shawsville
June 28-29 - [Helping Hands](#), Greene Memorial UMC, Roanoke
July 16 - Clergy Luncheon at Natural Bridge Hotel
July 27-29 - [Mission Encounter](#) - at Smith Mtn Lake 4H Center
Saturday, Aug 25 - Alta Mons Cookout

Details and Future Events on Website

Prayer Requests

For the two Roanoke District clergy who will be ordained at Annual Conference 2018 - Rev. SeungHae Yoo-Hess, [Rockingham Court UMC](#), and Rev. Tim Craft, [Cave Spring United Methodist Church](#).

For the three Roanoke District youth chosen to attend [Convergence: Where Faith and Science Meet](#) -- for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades students to learn about science and Christian faith at **Randolph-Macon**, in Ashland: **Melanie Fleischer** (Newport - Mt. Olivet UMC); **Grecia Hernandez** (Thrasher Memorial UMC); and **Miranda Lattimer** (Fieldstone UMC).

For **Vivian Hernandez** (Thrasher Memorial UMC), who has been chosen to attend the [Shenandoah University Youth Ministry Institute \(SUYSI\)](#) is an immersive experience for rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students at the intersection of faith and justice at Shenandoah University in Winchester.

For **Betsy Stutes**, wife of **Rev. Robert Stutes** (Mt Pleasant UMC, Roanoke), who is having hip replacement surgery this week.

For **Bonnie Matthews**, wife of **Rev. Roger Matthews**, who is in hospice care. Rev. Matthews is a retired Elder from the Indiana Conference.

For the family **Rev. William L. Ayres** who passed away March 22, 2018. Rev. Ayers was a retired elder on the Roanoke District and had served Belmont UMC

in Roanoke.

For **Rev. Morris Fleischer**, (Newport - Mt Olivet), as he attends the [Global Ministries Earth Keepers](#) training in Atlanta later this month, which equips United Methodist laity and clergy to develop or deepen environmental initiatives in their communities.

For members of the District United Methodist Women (UMW) as they travel and participate in the [United Methodist Women's Assembly](#) (May 18-20) in Columbus, Ohio, as they celebrate the 150th Anniversary of UMW.

For Rev. Joe Cobb, the new chaplain at [Hermitage-Roanoke](#).

Register Now for Summer Camp

HELP with storm damage -- We are behind schedule on preparing the grounds for summer camp due to the damage that snow storms and flooding caused. Any groups (UMW, UMM, Sunday School classes, youth, etc.) that would be willing to come out and help us clean up limbs, debris, and do simple maintenance would be greatly appreciated! Call 268-2409 or email office@altamons.org to schedule a date and time.



REGISTER NOW for Summer Camp -- We are still accepting registrations and would love for all of the children and youth from the District to attend! This summer's theme is "**Waters of Grace**", June 24 through July 20. Check out the brochure online.

Male Counselors Needed -- Applicants must be 18 yrs old by June 24, 2018 and be available June 11 - July 21. We are seeking young men who enjoy spending time outside, love working with children/youth and are seeking to grow in their faith. Apply at [online](#) or call Meredith at 540-268-2409.

Paid Kitchen Staff Wanted -- Full time summer hours and weekend hours during the fall/winter/spring. Contact Ronda Wimmer at 540-268-2409.

Volunteer Nurses Needed -- to serve at summer camp July 8-13 OR July 15-20. Being a camp nurse includes free room & board and the ability to send one child of your choice to summer camp for FREE! Must have a valid RN's license and be able to commit to a week in residence at Alta Mons.

Mark your calendars for the **6th Annual District Cookout**, Sat August 25.

Remember, Alta Mons is open to the public every day from sunrise to sunset. Come out for a hike to [Stiles Falls](#) or just a walk around camp. Alta Mons will be closed to the public from Sunday June 24 to Friday July 20th, excluding Saturdays, during summer camp.

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



Next Year Community Outreach Program will be 30 Years Old!

COP ([Community Outreach Program](#)) is looking to rebrand our name and logo, to celebrate our 30 years, and we need you to help us come up with a new name! We are looking for a catchy name that more accurately represents what our program does! COP is doing a contest June 1st-June 30th and the winner will be announced in August. The winner will receive a gift card basket worth \$100+. Rules will be available June 1.

Candace Hess, COP Executive Director
communityoutreachroanoke@gmail.com 540-342-3103

[Community Outreach Program website](#)

Mission Encounter at SML

Register for [Mission Encounter](#), July 27-29, at Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center. If you have every wondered not just how we DO mission, where we are in mission, and most importantly why we are called to LIVE out missional lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, this is the event to attend!

There are classes for men, women, children, clergy and laity: Missionary Conference of the UMC in the USA; What About Our Money; Embracing Our Wholeness. Rev. JaeHaeng Choi, from Fincastle UMC, will be leading the Korean Language study of "What About Our Money".

All God's Children Needs Mentors



[All God's Children Camp](#) is still looking for mentors for each of 3 locations. Please consider volunteering for these special camps for children with an incarcerated parent!

Contact Lori Smith at lttlelori@gmail.com.

June 17-22: Camp Chanco (Richmond area)

June 24-29: Camp Overlook (Shenandoah Valley)

July 29-August 3: Occohannock on the Bay (Eastern Shore)

United Methodist Women Updates



Please join us for our **UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference** on June 16 at 6:45 am at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, with guest speaker Rev. Keary Kincannon from Rising Hope Mission Church. The cost is \$20.00 paid by a check made to York River District UMW, by Monday, May 28.

Don't forget that UMW Day at Ferrum is June 2 (but the registration deadline is May 13, before this newsletter is sent!)

Register for **Mission Encounter**, July 27-29, at Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center. It is a great weekend of learning about missions of the UMC.

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

UMW Prayer Calendar

Local Churches & Organizations

Wednesday, **May 16**, noon -- **Church Staff Appreciation Lunch** - Wed, May 16, noon, **Rescue Mission**. You are invited to bring your church staff and RSVP for this free lunch to Stacy Boris at stacy.boris@rescuemission.net or 777-7656.

Any time between Mother's Day and Father's Day is designated as the time to support **The Samaritan Fund** at **Pinnacle Living**, formerly Virginia United Methodist Homes. The Samaritan Fund is a benevolence that provides financial assistance to residents.

Sunday, **May 20**, 10:30 am and 4 pm: **Of Time and Eternity** - a choral concert featuring recently re-discovered, out of print music. **South Roanoke UMC**, 2330 South Jefferson St, Roanoke. Tickets needed for the 4 pm service. 344-4437.

Friday, **June 22**, 8 am-4 pm and June 23 8 am-1 pm -- **Yard Sale/Craft Sale & Bake Sale**, **Rockingham Court UMC/UMW**, clothing, home goods, books, and more, baked goods, sausage biscuits in the morning, plus hot dogs and drinks at lunch. Local crafters are invited to rent a table. Call Kathy Wickham at 556-3304.

Northview UMC invites children's choirs to their **MAD (Music Art Drama) Camp**, **July 16 - 20**, from 8:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m daily. Open to children rising to 1st - 8th grades. Cost is \$40 to register. Call 366-0646 for info. Northview UMC, 521 Ridgcrest Dr. Roanoke.

Job Openings

Current job openings include Bonsack UMC (Music), Cave Spring UMC (Business Mgr), Hermitage-Roanoke (Activities Director), and Raleigh Court UMC (Children's Ministry) .

Visit our website - Job Openings

100% of 2018 Apportionments

Thanks to the **Roanoke District Churches** who have paid 100% of Conference and District apportionments for 2018: Calvary, Christiansburg; Mount Elbert; Mount Pleasant, Foothills Charge; and Three Oaks Fellowship. Thanks to Bethel, New Castle Charge: Locust Grove, and White Memorial, who have paid 100% of the District apportionments. *(as of April 30, 2018).*

The VAUMC Treasurer's office newsletter, [Dollars and Sense](#), has helpful information on your church finances.



Sharma D. Lewis - Area Bishop

Kathleen Overby Webster - District Superintendent

Brenda Brooks & Gary Morris - District Co-Lay Leaders

Judy Job - Associate District Lay Leader

Cynthia T. Martin - Office Manager/ Bookkeeper

Jan McCall Failes - Office Assistant

Please submit newsletter articles by the first of each month. RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org

Roanoke District of the United Methodist Church

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