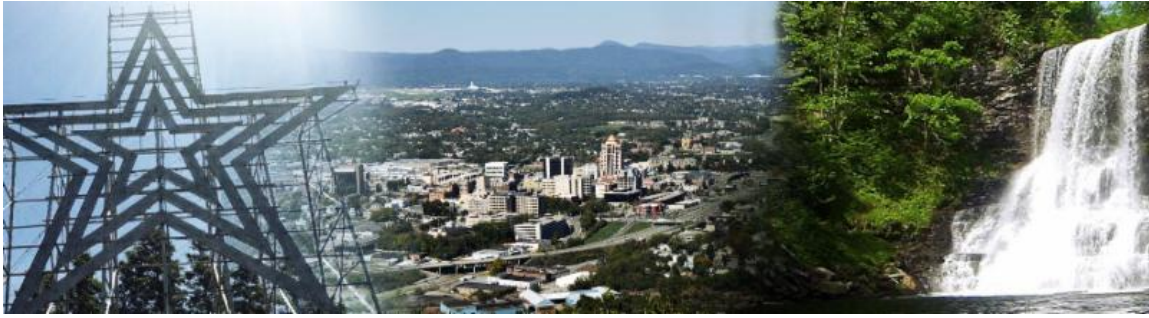


# Roanoke United Methodist District

E-News December 2018 (11-15-18)



## District Conference November 18 @ 3 pm First UMC 125 West Main St, Salem

The Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster, District Superintendent, will conduct the business of the District including highlights of District ministries,

election of District leadership, committee reports, election of District At Large lay members to 2019 Annual Conference and nominations for 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference lay delegates. Worship, refreshments and *Rise Against Hunger* meal packing event will follow.

Adults, youth and children are ALL WELCOME to come and pack food, about 4 pm, following the meeting and worship. [CLICK HERE](#) for *Rise Against Hunger* release form or they will be available on site. Just turn them in at the event.

**Sing at District Conference** -- A Roanoke District Choir will sing in the worship service during District Conference. If you individually or as a church choir would like to participate please contact Josh O'dell at [Jodell@thrasherumc.org](mailto:Jodell@thrasherumc.org) and come at 2 pm for rehearsal.

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## Staff-Parish & Treasurer/Finance Training on November 27

Training for Finance Committees, Treasurers and Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees will be held on Tues, Nov 27 at 7 pm at St. Paul UMC in Christiansburg. [Click here](#) for information.

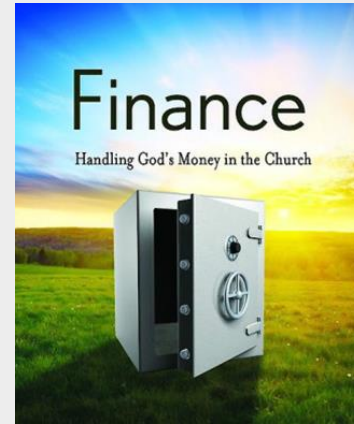
Registration encouraged (walk ins welcome)  
by phone to: 540-989-3335 by fax to: 540-989-0672



Roanoke District Superintendent,  
**Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster**,  
will present training for all members  
of local church Staff/Pastor  
Parish Relations Committees. The  
S/PPRC is the administrative unit in  
the local church where staff and  
congregational interests are  
integrated to focus on the mission of  
the church.

Training will include:

- Committee Basics
- Functions/Duties
- Calendar Flow
- Evaluations and much more



Virginia Conference Treasurer,  
**David Dommissé**, will lead training for  
local church leaders involved in  
Finances including clergy, laity and  
church staff servings as treasurers,  
audit committees, finance  
committees, and financial  
secretaries.

Training will include:

- Internal Accounting Controls
- Best Practices for handling church funds
- Audits
- Year End Statistics
- And much more

## *God's Signs*

### *A Message from our District Superintendent*

The line of city trash trucks at the edge of the parking lot adjacent to I-581, engines rumbling and lights flashing, is a sign to me on my frequent treks to meetings at the Conference Center in Glen Allen. If they are still parked, humming it seems in anticipation of the day, then I am on schedule. If (sometimes a b-i-g "if") I do not hit any traffic tie-ups along the way, I will have time to stop for coffee in Waynesboro and arrive on time for the meeting. If however that parking lot is empty, dark, and quiet, with only a straggler truck still in view, then I know I will not be able to stop along the way and will arrive late, when the meeting has already begun.

*Then Jesus told them a story:*

*When you see a fig tree or any other tree putting out leaves, you know that summer will soon come. So, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom will soon be here.*

(Luke 21:29-31, Common English Version)

We are called, especially in this season, to be alert for signs of God's in-breaking Kingdom. In what unlikely places, surprising situations, and unexpected people do you see signs of God's work? In the midst of political divisiveness, entrenched discord, antipathy, hatred, and heightened anxiety, where are there signs that God is working for newness of life?

Does your life and that of your church need to be a sign to your community of God's surprising work of healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace? Are you living into the hope and promise of God at work in the world, attentive to the many ways Christ is present (Emmanuel), advocating for the powerless, and befriending the lonely?

*When all of this starts happening, stand up straight and be brave. You will soon be set free.* (Luke 21:28, Common English Version)

Even so, come Lord Jesus,  
*Kathleen*

In October I:

- Worshiped with the Convergence Service at Blacksburg UMC; Officiated a wedding in our District Staff Family
- Conducted 11 annual cluster Charge Conferences with 25 churches
- Participated in the Annual Conference Planning Meeting and Conference Common Table Personnel Committee Meeting
- Attended the District UMW Day
- Participated in Peer Group
- Met with Bishop Lewis for Annual Consultation and Evaluation
- Participated in the October Cabinet Meeting, the Bishops Way Forward Work Group, and The Strategic Visioning Steering Team
- Led District Committee on Nominations Meeting, Attended District Common Table Meeting, Five Talent Academy, and Carillon CPE Advisory Group Meeting, and District Clergywomen's Lunch
- Consulted with laity and clergy in person, by phone, and through email

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## Upcoming Dates

Sunday, Nov 18 - [District Conference](#) - 3 pm, First UMC, Salem

November 21-23 - District Office closed for Thanksgiving

Tuesday, Nov 27 - [Training](#) - Finance/Treasurers & SPRC - 7 pm, St Paul UMC, C'burg

Tuesday, Nov 27 - **Giving Tuesday** - [UMC Mission Projects](#)

Thursday, Nov 29 - **District Clergy Day Apart** - 10 am, Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke

Thursday, Dec 6 - **Hermitage Open House** - 3-5 pm, 1009 Old Country Club Rd, Roanoke

Saturday, Dec 8 - **Alta Mons Annual Meeting** - 2 pm, [Alta Mons Camp & Retreat Center](#), Shawsville

Thursday, Dec 13 - **District Office Open House** - 11 am - 2 pm, 4502 Starkey Rd, SW, Ste 101, Roanoke

December 21-26 - District Office closed for Christmas

December 31- January 1 - District Office closed for New Year

Saturday, Jan 19 - [Safe Sanctuaries Training](#) - 9:30 am, Woodlawn UMC.

Feb 23-26, 2019 - Special Session of **General Conference**, St. Louis, MO

March 1-3 - **District Youth Retreat** with Wesley at VT, Blacksburg

Saturday, April 6 - **Chat and Chew 3.0 with Bishop Lewis**, SW Cluster—TBA

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## Prayer Celebrations & Requests

For **Parrish Chapel UMC**, in Vinton, who celebrated 125 years of ministry in October.



For **Rev. Morris Fleischer**, serving Newport-Mt Olivet UMC in Newport, who was recently commissioned as a General Board of Global Ministries(GBGM) **Earthkeeper**, a special call to the ministry of creation care.

For **Rev. Don Baldwin** and his wife Jackie, as Don is recovering from triple bypass surgery at Duke University Hospital. Don is a full-time Local Pastor, serving Fairview UMC in Roanoke.

For **Rev. Hugh Nickols** and his wife Dee, as Hugh is in rehab at The Glebe, recovering from major surgery. Hugh is a retired elder on our District.

For **Jim McMillen**, father of **Rev. Randy McMillen**, pastor of Bonsack UMC, Roanoke. Jim is recovering in the hospital in Richmond.

For **Rev. Larry Stevens**, who is in the hospital in Vienna, Austria recovering from pulmonary embolisms. Larry is a former pastor of Mt. Pleasant UMC in Roanoke, and is currently on "honorable location."

For the family of **Rev. James W. (Jim) Reynolds, Jr.** who passed away on October 30 at the age of 93. Jim, a retired elder, served many churches in the Virginia Conference including Cave Spring and Raleigh Court in the Roanoke District, and was a resident at Hermitage-Roanoke.

For the family of **Jackie Boitnott**, of New Castle, who passed away on October 27. Jackie was the widow of Rev. Charles "Buddy" Boitnott and active in the SWVA Emmaus Community.

For the family of **Rachel Littleton Jones**, who passed away on October 17 at 101 years of age. Rachel was the widow of Rev. George Wesley Jones and was a resident at Hermitage-Roanoke.

For all those affected by fires in California, recent Hurricanes as well as those responding locally and globally. Ways to help via UMCOR - United Methodist Committee On Relief: <http://ow.ly/dOem30IMsGI>.

For **General Conference** in February 2019 -- "We are encouraging every **United Methodist to fast weekly and to pray daily**, from 2:23 - 2:26 am or pm, with the Council of Bishops," said Bishop Al Gwinn, the Prayer Team Coordinator. Details at [www.UMCPrays.org](http://www.UMCPrays.org). Also pray for two Roanoke District lay members who will be delegates -- Dr. Nathaniel L. Bishop (Asbury UMC, Christiansburg) and Jacob Paysour (Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke); and for Rev. RJ Jun, (Raleigh Court UMC, Roanoke), who will be a translator.

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## General Conference 2019

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, of the **Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church**, shares a video message regarding "Guiding Principles" as we anticipate

Watch the archived Q & A at <https://livestream.com/VAUMC/COWFQA>.

Downloads of the plans, Virginia delegates and more are available at  
<https://www.vaumc.org/GC2019>.

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## Communications Grants Awarded

Roanoke District Common Table -  
Communications team has awarded grants  
for the Advent season to these local churches:

Belview, Blacksburg, Cave Spring, Fieldstone,  
Greene Memorial, Huntington Court, Locust  
Grove, Mount Olivet, Newport-Mt Olivet, Raleigh Court, St. Mark's, South  
Roanoke, Southview, Thrasher Memorial, Trinity- Roanoke, Wesley Memorial,  
West End. Grants were funded from District apportionments.

ROANOKE DISTRICT  
**COMMUNICATION  
GRANT**

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## Register now for Winter Camp



Register NOW for **Winter Camp**-- Dec 14th to 16th! Open to children and youth in grades 2-12. Just \$99. Winter Camp is a great opportunity for first time and returning campers to come together to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We'll be exploring the birth of Christ through our theme, **Beauty Of Thy Peace**, and having lots of fun too! From hot cocoa to hiking to wagon rides to some s'mores, everyone will be toasty warm in our heated retreat buildings when

they're not outside having fun! For more information and online registration, check out [www.altamons.org/winter-camp](http://www.altamons.org/winter-camp)

Alta Mons is looking to hire a full-time **Property Coordinator** (formerly titled Facilities Coordinator) to help ensure that all property, facilities, equipment, and grounds are maintained at a high level of safety, appearance, cleanliness, and functionality that supports our goal of engaging churches, campers, guests and our community in the programs and services we provide. For more info/or to apply, contact Ronda Wimmer, Executive Director, at 268-2409 or [office@altamons.org](mailto:office@altamons.org).

Alta Mons is also needing help in the kitchen! Would you be interested in helping to prepare food for retreat guests and/or kids at Winter Camp? We have mostly weekend work and it's not every weekend! If you are at all interested, please contact the camp office at 540-268-2409.

Are you a local church rep for Alta Mons? Come to our **Alta Mons Annual Meeting** - Saturday, Dec 8 @ 2 pm, [Alta Mons Camp & Retreat Center](#), in Shawsville.

**Meredith Simmons**, Program Director  
[office@altamons.org](mailto:office@altamons.org) 540-268-2409

[Alta Mons website](#)

# Kids Soar Hosts Breakfast with Santa December 8 & Book Fair



Come and spend the morning with Santa and support **Kids Soar (formerly Community Outreach Program COP)**! Enjoy a pancake breakfast with Santa and make crafts with his Elves. Visit with him in his library and hear stories about the north pole. Take your own pictures or buy a photo package. Two seatings available 7:30 am and 9:30 am at 305 Mountain Ave SW, Roanoke. Tickets are available in advance and at the door. 12\$ adults, 5\$ children ages 4-12, children 3 and under free.

Family ticket package of 2 adults and 2 or more children 30\$. Tickets are on sale now at [www.kidsoar.org](http://www.kidsoar.org). Call 540-342-3103 for more information.

**Book Fair:** Saturday 12-1 from 11 am - 3 pm at Barnes & Noble Valley View. Or visit [BN.com/bookfairs](http://BN.com/bookfairs) from 12/1 to 12/12 and use ID 12449369 at checkout to support Kids Soar.

**Candace Hess**, Kids Soar, Executive Director  
[chess@kidsoar.org](mailto:chess@kidsoar.org) 540-342-3103

[Kids Soar \(formerly COP\) website](http://www.kidsoar.org)

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## District Youth Raised \$1,600

*The Roanoke District Youth raised \$1,600 for the Youth Service Fund at the Haunted House! I am so thankful for all of YOU and our hard work. Those who set up, decorated and haunted allowed 320 people to come through and get scared and have a blast. Many came through twice and they loved it. We loved working with you. See you soon.*



Don't forget to register for **Resurrection** (Jan 25-27) and mark your calendars for the District Youth Retreat with Wesley @VA Tech, March 1-3, 2019.

**Paula Coker-Jones**, District Youth Coordinator  
[paula@srumc.com](mailto:paula@srumc.com) 540-529-9901

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## UMCOR Buckets Delivered!

Over 125 UMCOR Cleaning Buckets were delivered from the Roanoke District to **The United Methodist MERCY Center** in Goldsboro, North Carolina. What a blessing to be a blessing! Thanks to: First UMC, Salem, Raleigh



Court UMC, and Saint Marks UMC, Daleville who contributed the buckets.

## Help for Puerto Rico

The **District Common Table** is working on a project to assist families who were devastated during Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico by encouraging Roanoke District participation in purchasing solar panel emergency power systems. More details will follow, including the possibility of mission teams to help with installation.



## Danville District Requests Teams



**Danville District Requests Teams** -- after landfall of Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael there was historic flooding of the Dan River and others waterways in the Danville District. There are currently 168 identified homes that need assessment. The **Rev. Lisa Nordan** is heading up current Danville efforts and is in **great need of**

some trained volunteers (ERT) that can assist with debris removal and muck-out type work in order to get folks to a place where their homes are safe, sanitary and secure. If you can help please contact Rev. Nordan at 434-483-3388 or by email at [Revnordan@icloud.com](mailto:Revnordan@icloud.com). Teams are preferred but individuals can sign up and then be placed with others who are there. If folks would like to donate, encourage a donation to the **Conference Advance Special #5037 Disaster Response** -- from Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz, VA Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, 757-408-6653, [Vacdrt1@gmail.com](mailto:Vacdrt1@gmail.com)

**Hurricane Florence & Michael** -- Early Response Teams (ERTs) are needed in North Carolina and ERTs need to go through the operation center in the North Carolina Conference by contacting them at 888-440-9167 or [disasterresponse@nccumc.org](mailto:disasterresponse@nccumc.org). Pihlcrantz emphasized that all ERTs must notify the **VAUMC ERT Coordinator Kirk Culpepper** when they register with the North Carolina Conference (NCCUMC) and before they deploy: [kirkculpepper@vaumc.org](mailto:kirkculpepper@vaumc.org) or 757-434-0078. At this time only UMCOR ERT teams may deploy and later on UVMIM teams will be able to respond as well.

Our UMCOR network is working around the clock to lead response efforts! Learn how you can help at <https://umcor.org/response>.

## Celebrate UMW's 150 Years in 2019

### Together We are Building our Legacy



Organized for mission we operate from a biblically based understanding that equips laywomen to grow in our faith through prayer, study, fellowship and action, and to work for social justice to provide a more equitable, safe and healthy world for women, children and youth. In 2014, the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign was begun to raise \$60 million to secure **United Methodist Women** for service in the next 150 years and beyond.

From July through Oct, this year, we asked UMW members give \$1.50 for each pair of shoes and /or gloves that a member may have because we are the feet

and hands of Christ. During November UMW member is asked to give \$1.50 for each side dish she serves for Thanksgiving. All Legacy funds for 2018 need to be sent to District Treasurer, Helen Watson, by Dec 5. Just have FUN while giving to our Legacy FUND.

Your unit should also make plans to celebrate the [150th Birthday of United Methodist Women](#), March 23, 2019 at your church -- be sure to celebrate all the ways you've made life better for women, children and youth.

**General Assembly Day**, will be Jan 31, 2019 in Richmond, co-sponsored by UMW and Church & Society. [Click here.](#)

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

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## Local Churches & Organizations

**Nov 19, 26 & Dec 10:** 6 pm, **Asbury UMC**, Join us for dinner and a [Community Conversation on Homelessness](#). Hear from, listen to, learn from, and ask questions from people who work with children, women, veterans, returning citizens, and mental health and substance abuse. 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 382-0743.

**Dec 1 & 2:** 6-8:30 pm (weather permitting). [Rockingham Court UMC](#), invites you to our annual live, outdoor, **drive-through Nativity Scene**. This is a free, beautiful event you and your family can share to start your holiday season. 4615 Bryan Road, just off Yellow Mountain Rd, in the Garden City area of Roanoke. If you have questions, call 427-0112.

**Dec 6:** 3-5 pm: All are invited to the [Hermitage Annual Christmas Open House](#), Thursday, Dec 6. This year support the Roanoke Valley SPCA and their "Pets Eat Too" program by bringing a can/bag of cat or dog food to the Open House. Enjoy music and tasty holiday treats while enjoying the beautiful decor. [Hermitage-Roanoke](#), 1009 Old Country Club Rd, NW, Roanoke. 767-6800.

**Dec 21:** 6-8 pm: Come spread peace and joy through song. [Caroling](#) and festivities will take place at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial bridge near the Roanoke Higher Education Center. Bring your friends and a canned good donation! Sponsored by TAP.



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## Apportionments Information

Thanks to the Roanoke District Churches who have paid  
**100% of Conference and District apportionments.**

The process for paying Apportionments in 2019 will change. Please read [this letter](#) from David Dommissie, Conference Treasurer. January 18, 2019 will be the last day to pay 2018 Conference and District Apportionments.

Training for Finance Committees, Treasurers and Staff/Pastor Parish



**Relations Committees** will be held on Tues, Nov 27 at 7 pm at St. Paul UMC in Christiansburg. [Click here](#) for information.

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

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**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](mailto:RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org)

**Roanoke District of the United Methodist Church**  
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