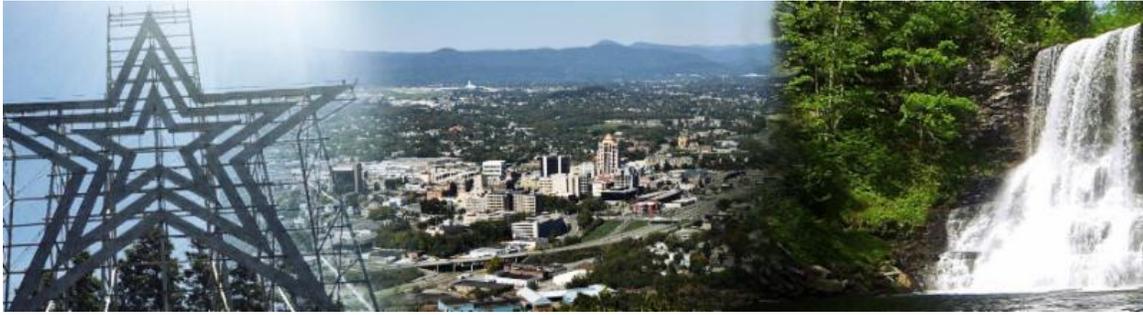


Roanoke United Methodist District

E-News January 2019 (12-17-18)



"Servant Leaders Making a Difference"

The **151st Roanoke District Conference** was held on Sunday, November 18, 2018 at First UMC, Salem. **Servant Leaders Making a Difference** celebrated music and ministry in our district and featured a

Roanoke District Choir comprised of members from eight of our local churches. Over \$400 was collected for the **Rise Against Hunger** meal packing service project that took place at the conclusion of worship (see photos below); over 10,000 meals were prepared for shipment to Haiti.

Celebrated outgoing **District Lay Leader - Brenda Brooks**, who has served as the Roanoke District Lay Leader for two different terms, and served with four District Superintendents -- Rev. Richard Warden, Rev. Tom Joyce, Rev. Stephen Hundley, and Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster. *Above photo (left to right): Nathaniel L. Bishop, former District Lay Leader; Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster, current Roanoke District Superintendent; Brenda Brooks, outgoing District Lay Leader; Rev. Tom Joyce, former Roanoke District Superintendent; and Gary Morris, Co-District Lay Leader.*

In 2019 **Gary Morris** will serve the **Roanoke District as Lay Leader** assisted by **Denise Pappas** and **Shirley Brown** as **District Associate Lay Leaders**. Members of district committees and boards were elected.

At-Large District Delegates for Annual Conference 2019 were also elected: David Bates, Nathaniel Bishop, Sylvia Bishop, Warner Bonderman, Brenda Brooks, Andree Brooks, Sandra Bullington, Jan Collins, Jan McCall Failes, Rebecca Frazier, Leta Gillespie, Mackenzie Haley, Joyce Ison, Alan Johnson, Jacob Paysour, Amy Robertson, Rhonda Rogers, Lois Sanborn, Mike Sanborn, Wyatt Sasser, Nancy Sasser, Sue Speed, Terri Urquhart, Helen Watson, and Harvey Woodmansee. Also voted on **nominees for General Conference and Jurisdictional Conferences Lay Members** for 2020, who will be sent to the Virginia Conference as nominees: Nathaniel Bishop, Brenda Brooks and Jacob Paysour.

All reports, upcoming events, committees and nominations can be found in the [District Conference Book of Reports](#) - PDF version.



Enjoyed worship with a District Choir.



Meal packaging - putting the rice meal packets together.



Preparing to weigh and seal Rise Against Hunger Meals



Grant Applications Due January 31

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. Please contact the District Office at: RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org or call 540-989-3335 with questions. The deadline for all applications is Thursday, January 31, 2019. Mark your calendars for the Board's Annual Meeting at 3 PM on Sunday, March 17th at White Memorial UMC, Shawsville.

'Connect with a Church' Video Available

'[Connect With A Church](#)', a 60-second customizable video for local churches, is now available. The video focuses on the need for intergenerational connection, in our society, which invites people to church. The video can be used for Advent social media promotions, but is not seasonal, so it can be used for future campaigns. Local churches can add their own tag lines. It was produced by the District Common Table Communications Team, led by Sarah Howell who worked with William Vest Video Productions. For more information, contact Communications Chair, Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun at seungsoojun@vaumc.org.

Responding to Anxiety
A Message from our District Superintendent

In her book **God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church** Elaine Heath names a four-fold practice that helps leaders and congregations respond to the mounting anxiety that occurs when a system begins to change. Re-reading this during Advent, helps me see the ways in which Jesus embodied this.

Show up to God, ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

As we move through these Advent-Christmas-Epiphany days I am increasingly aware that Jesus, Incarnate, Emmanuel, shows up: in the stable, with the children in the day care playroom, at the hospital bed of the dying, among the inmates, along the migrant's journey, in legislative halls, and executive suites.

Pay attention to what is there, what is going on inside and outside ourselves.

Throughout his ministry Jesus was deeply aware: of immediate need of healing whether from illness and disease or through life transforming forgiveness, understanding those in power and the powerless, centurion and Samaritan, Pharisee and possessed, of insiders and outsiders, to all he pointed out signs of God's in-breaking reign.

Cooperate with God as God invites, instructs, corrects, or encourages in the situation at hand.

Jesus crossed boundaries, challenged those at centers of power, comforted those on the margins, invited all, ate with the religiously pure and those publicly identified as sinners.

Release the outcome of cooperation with God. Consciously let go of the outcome, recognizing that God is God and we are not.

"Not my will but thy will" was Jesus's final prayer before his arrest and crucifixion.

Where are you showing up? Who are you showing up to? What are you noticing in your prayers, through what you see and hear, observe from a distance, and touch? Where is God seeking your cooperation? What next step to take, what hope to offer, what challenge to extend? How are you releasing the outcome to God?

Not just in the anticipation of Advent and the candle-lit joy of Christmas, but in the glare of wintery Epiphany days. As the Called 2019 General Conference acts. As your congregation grows in discipleship, circles of influence, and service.

Faithfully,
Kathleen

In November I:

- Worshipped with Crockett Spring UMC and Rockingham Court UMC
- Conducted 5 annual cluster Charge Conferences with 14 churches
- Participated in the Annual Conference Planning, Conference Common Table, Common Table Personnel Committee, and Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Meetings
- Participated in the November Cabinet Meeting (including worship leadership one morning) and The Bishop's Strategic Visioning Steering Team
- Convened annual District Conference and participated in Rise Against Hunger meal packing
- Attended District Committee on Ordained Ministry
- Led District Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Training
- Facilitated District Clergy Day Apart
- Consulted with laity and clergy in person, by phone, and through email
- Enjoyed Thanksgiving holiday with Family

Upcoming Dates

Dec 21-26 - District Office closed for Christmas

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

Thurs, Jan 10 - Apportionment Preference Form Due

Thurs, Jan 17 - **District Clergywomen's Lunch**

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

Mon, Jan 21 - District Office closed for Rev. Dr. King holiday

Thurs, Jan 31 - Deadline for **Board of Missions Grant Applications**

Thurs, Jan 31 - [UM Assembly Day](#) in Richmond

Wed, Feb 6 - **District Common Table Mtg**, Cave Spring UMC, 10 am

Thurs, Feb 7 - **District Clergy Dinner**, Homeplace in Catawba, 6 pm

Thurs, Feb 21 - **District Clergy Prayer for General Conference**, First UMC in Salem, 10:30 am - Noon

Feb 23-26, 2019 - Special Session of [General Conference](#), St. Louis, MO

March 1-3 - **District Youth Retreat** with Wesley at Virginia Tech

Saturday, March 16 - **Paul Bunyan Day** at [Alta Mons](#)

Sunday, March 17 - **District Board of Missions Annual Meeting** - 3 pm

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

June 20-22 - **Annual Conference** at Berglund Center in Roanoke

[Details and Future Events on Website](#)

Prayer Celebrations & Requests

For [Rev. Mickey White](#) who passed away on December 15 after a long battle with cancer. Mickey was a retired local pastor serving Parrish Chapel UMC in Vinton. Please keep his wife, Norma, his family, and the Parrish Chapel congregation in your prayers as they navigate this difficult time. His funeral service will be Tuesday, Dec 18 at Northview UMC.

For **Rev. Warren Carswell** and his wife Carrie, as her brother Mark Aaron Duncan, passed away. Warren is the pastor of Southview UMC in Roanoke.

For **Rev. Tim Craft**, Director of Next Gen Ministries at Cave Spring UMC, whose uncle, Yancey McGann, recently passed away.

For **Rev. Morris Bennett** and his wife Ann, as he prepares for surgery in January. Morris is a retired Elder serving Andrew Chapel UMC in Buchanan.

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

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. 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.



From the
Bishop

General Conference 2019

[December Letter](#) from Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, of the [Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church](#).

Video Message from Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, of the [Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church](#), regarding "Guiding Principles" as we anticipate General Conference 2019. This can be downloaded and shared. Guiding Principles **video**. Guiding Principles **PDF version**.

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>.

Bishop's Bible Challenge for 2019

Since 2017, Bishop Lewis has been encouraging the Virginia Conference to read the Bible in a year. Each year has featured a different way of reading. For 2019, [the Bible Challenge](#) will be a blended style of reading; a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day. In this new year, challenge yourself to study the Bible and strengthen your faith in the process. Each month's readings will also be printed in each Advocate issue.



Safe Sanctuaries Training



Debbie Brown, a certified trainer, will lead **Safe Sanctuaries Training** on Sat, January 19 from 9:30 am - 12 noon at Woodlawn UMC, 2922 Corbieshaw Rd, SW, Roanoke. Pre-registration is encouraged. No cost to attend. One free book per church- additional copies available for sale \$25.

[Safe Sanctuaries training](#) is required for all persons having direct contact with children, youth, and vulnerable adults in all activities connected with local congregations, annual conferences, and camp settings, so sanctuaries, classrooms, mission encounters, camps and retreats, and all spaces are safe for children, youth and vulnerable adults. Register by contacting Debbie Brown at DebbieB@gmumc.org or 540-344-6225.

Alta Mons is Hiring

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. For more info/ or to apply, contact Ronda Wimmer, Executive Director, at 268-2409 or office@altamons.org.



Alta Mons is also needing help in the kitchen! We have mostly weekend work and it's not every weekend! If you are at all interested, please contact the office. Thanks for all who participated in Winter Camp (see photo above) last weekend.

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

[Alta Mons website](#)

Thanks from Kids Soar

Seasons greetings from [Kids Soar \(formerly Community Outreach Program COP\)](#)! We hope this holiday season finds you well. Kids Soar has been blessed this year and we want to send thanks to all who came out to our events such as **Breakfast with Santa** and the **Book Fair**! Our Christmas program is right around the corner and you are all invited! This year we are putting on a play written collaboratively among our teachers and will include a musical piece written by Ms. Leilani, and a dance routine choreographed by Ms. Victoria. Come and help us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas on **December 17th** at 6pm dinner to follow!



Advent is the time when we are all reminded of the birth of our savior and the hope, he brings to us. We at **Kids Soar** are so thankful to all the churches who have helped bring hope and light to our children and families through our Christmas Angel program. The generosity and kindness of our church families have blessed all our children AND their siblings with gifts this Christmas. Gifts of the spirit and the precious gift of knowing someone cares is priceless. Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas!

Please reach out to us! We would love to hear from you! Get connected and experience the joy we find at Kids Soar!

Candace Hess, Kids Soar, Executive Director
hess@kidsoar.org 540-342-3103

[Kids Soar \(formerly COP\) website](#)

District Youth Retreat is March 1-3

Mark your calendars for the **District Youth Retreat with Wesley @VA Tech**, March 1-3, 2019 ... registration will be open soon.



Apply now for the [YSF \(Youth Service Fund\) Grants](#). The Youth

Service Fund exists to support and encourage initiatives that are created and/or led by youth (“by youth”) and aimed at engaging and/or serving youth (“for youth”). Funding for these grants comes from individuals, local churches, districts, and conference offerings/fundraisers throughout the year. Click [HERE](#) for the application and [HERE](#) for application guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Tate in the Office of Next Generation Ministries at beckytate@vaumc.org or by calling 804-521-1139.

NOTE: Deadline for all applications to be received is Monday February 25, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. via email to beckytate@vaumc.org. Also, **ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.**

Shenandoah Institute [Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute](#): is a 14-day institute (July 14-27, 2019) where high school students (current 9-12 grade) explore the exciting intersection of faith and justice. Upon completion of the institute, and a self-identified justice project in their local context students receive **3 credits from Shenandoah University**. At SUYTI students spend one week at Shenandoah University in Winchester VA and one week at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C.. Each day includes worship, class time with world class professors, compelling afternoon immersive experiences, and mentoring from undergraduate and seminary students. The cost for students in 2019 is only \$200. If you would like to nominate a student you can use our [2019 NOMINATION FORM](#). The [2019 STUDENT APPLICATION](#), and more information on the website: www.su.edu/youththeology. For more information please contact Rev. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger (cpreunin@su.edu) 540-665-5453.

[Convergence: Where Faith and Science Meet](#) is a 9-day program (June 22-30, 2019) that allows students (current 9-11 grade) 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, deeper into the study of science, and will meet others with the same interests, with time in the classroom and outdoor experiences. The cost is only \$250. 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. Last year's Convergence brought 32 outstanding high school students from across the East Coast, including 16 youth from Virginia Conference congregations, with three from the Roanoke District. If you would like to nominate a participant, [click here](#) to fill out the nomination form, and the Convergence staff will contact your nominee with further information. The application form for participants is available [here](#). Please contact Rev. Kendra Grimes or Laura Ruxton (convergence@rmc.edu) with any questions about the program.

Voices of Youth -- There is a place for you on [Voices of Youth 2019](#) (ages 14 and older). Apply now for “How Sweet the Sound” tour of Poland and Virginia, June 19-July 10, 2019. The cost is \$2,700 per person all inclusive pricing. For further information, contact Mary Letson, 757-581-7250 or email voicesofyouth@vaumc.org.

Paula Coker-Jones, District Youth Coordinator
paula@srumc.com 540-529-9901

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 a solar panel emergency power system. This solar panel system can power basic appliances: fridge, fan, and TV, without having to get gas to run a generator, which was often unavailable following Hurricane Maria. During Epiphany, churches will

be asked to raise funds to purchase the solar panels (\$1200 per unit). The District will work with UMCOR to purchase the equipment and transport to Puerto Rico. The District will work to send volunteer teams to help with the installation in Puerto Rico. More information will be sent directly to churches. Would you like to help? Contact Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun at seungsoojun@vaumc.org.

Celebrate UMW's 150 Years in 2019

Together We are Building our Legacy



Your unit should 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

Local Churches & Organizations

Dec 19: 11 am: Service of Remembrance and Hope -- Homeless Memorial Service. A time for the community to come together to remember those who died without a home this past year. Greene Memorial UMC, 402 Second Street, Roanoke.

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.



Apportionments Information - Thanks to the Roanoke District Churches:

100% of Conference and District Apportionments (as of Nov 30)
Andrew Chapel; Asbury; Bethel, New Castle Charge; Calvary, Christiansburg; Fairview;
Goodwin Memorial; Mt. Elbert; Mt. Lebanon, Pembroke Charge; Mt. Olivet;
Mt Pleasant, Foothills Charge, and Three Oaks Fellowship

100% of Conference Apportionments
McDonalds Mill, Catawba Charge; Pierce Chapel, Foothills Charge;
and Shiloh, Catawba Charge

100% of Conference Apportionments
Crockett Springs; Halls; Lawrence Memorial;
Locust Grove; and White Memorial

Changes in 2019 for Paying Apportionments - the Conference Treasurers Office will include **Roanoke District Apportionments** on your Conference Apportionment Statement starting with your January 2019 statement. Local church treasurers will no longer need to remit separate checks to the District and Conference. One check should be made out to the **Virginia United Methodist Conference** that includes all apportionments (conference and district). The conference will electronically transfer the funds to the district to ensure the administration, ministries, and missions of the **Roanoke District** are supported. This also means that treasurers will be able to use the conference's [PayApp website](#) to submit their conference and district apportionment payments. If your church does not already use the [PayApp website](#), please check it out to view online statements and register to start making your apportionment payments online. January 18, 2019 will be the last day to pay 2018 Conference and District Apportionments.

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



*Blessings to you, your church and your family, from the District Office Staff,
as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior.*

Sharma D. Lewis - Area Bishop
Kathleen Overby Webster - District Superintendent
Gary Morris - District Lay Leaders
Shirley Brown & Denise Pappas - Associate District Lay Leaders
Cynthia T. Martin - Office Manager/ Bookkeeper
Jan McCall Failes - Office Assistant

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

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