

Roanoke United Methodist District

E-News May 2019 *(sent 4-15-19)*



Vision Day by Fresh Expressions April 27 at First UMC in Salem

Vision Day is a one-day training event for clergy and laity that teaches churches how to reach all kinds of people in all kinds of places

Vision Day is a one-day training event (9:30 am - 3:30 pm) that provides an opportunity to discover what it means to be the Church in new and creative ways. Hear from [Fresh Expression](#) practitioners, learn how to renew existing congregations, and discern what this could mean for your region, community or neighborhood. **Vision Day** is not just a seminar! It is a participative, creative gathering of practitioners and pioneers. There will be active discussion as well as opportunity to build networks and relationships among those in your area. [CLICK HERE](#) to download a PDF brochure.

Register [ONLINE](#) -- cost is \$25 per person. Registration includes lunch and a .5 CEU will be available.

Walking the Journey Together Meet with Bishop Weaver June 1st

Bishop Weaver, Interim Bishop for our Virginia Conference, will gather with Clergy and Laity from the Roanoke and Lynchburg Districts at **Bethlehem UMC**, 13586 Old Moneta Rd, Moneta, 24121 Saturday, June 1, 3-5 pm. Bishop Weaver invites us to "journey together" as we meet, learn from each other and care for each other in Easter Tide. We will share communion and discuss General Conference 2019, the Judicial Council decisions and our process going forward.



Follow up information on the **Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church** which was held Feb 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. [LINK to resources](#).

Puerto Rico Initiative - Solar Panels



The Roanoke District Common Table is working to assist families devastated by Hurricane Maria in Vieques, an island off of the coast of Puerto Rico where 9,000 persons are still without access to power. The churches of the **Roanoke District** are invited to receive financial gifts for the purchase of solar panel emergency power systems which offer a clean, renewable energy source without the need for expensive generators.

Our challenge is to raise \$50,000, enough to provide 400-watt Solar Panel Kits for 50 homes in Vieques.

The goal is to provide a grant to 50 households in Puerto Rico, of \$1,000 per house. An information packet is available so **each church** can be part of our effort to share the light of Jesus with our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico. Mission teams to help with installation of the panels may also be needed.

[Click HERE](#) for info or contact Rev. Seungsoo RJ Jun at seungsoojun@vaumc.org.

The Quiet Center in our Clutter

A Message from our District Superintendent

Though we were all in different locations at 6 AM the district superintendents gathered together in spirit for a focused time of prayer on the Sunday before the April Cabinet meeting. Bishop Lewis had begun this practice in her first year as our Bishop and Bishop Weaver continued it this month. Wherever we are early on the Sunday morning before each Cabinet meeting focused on appointments, we come together in a Covenant Prayer shaped by these understandings:



- **God is in control of the appointive process**
- **We allow the Holy Spirit to move in our discussion**
- **We make bold and creative appointments and think outside the box**

In the predawn quiet and dark of March 31, the words from
Shirley Erena Murray's hymn
"Come and Find the Quiet Center" echoed in my spirit.

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

(From *The Faith We Sing* used by permission of Abingdon Press. Copyright by Hope Publishing)

The phrase "clear the chaos and the clutter" especially reverberated me. With our long-planned kitchen remodel underway even my morning coffee and prayer space was torn up. It honestly felt hard for me in that morning's still-gathering light to differentiate church, home, and soul clutter.

Provisionally, Sunday, March 31 marked the 203rd anniversary of Francis Asbury's death. With the fruit of his work still visible today across Virginia, I'm reminded that sometimes it helps to take the long view, even as I recall his fervor to reach others this day and every day for Christ.

In whatever chaos and clutter we find ourselves individually, congregationally, denominationally, I remain grateful for your work and witness and give thanks for the "Spirit's lively scheming".

With hope and peace in Christ, who was crucified and is risen!

Kathleen

In March, I:

- Worshiped with Three Oaks Fellowship UMC, Huntington Court UMC, and Greene Memorial UMC
- Preached for Lenten Service at Windsor Hills UMC
- Attended Bishop Lewis's *State of the Church* Livestream
- Participated in the March Cabinet Meeting which focused on appointment-making
- Led *Midway* Clergy Event
- Participated in one *Table Talk* conversation
- Participated in District Committee on Ordained Ministry meeting
- Convened Board of Missions Investment Committee meeting, Executive Committee meeting, and Annual Meeting
- Participated in Conference Common Table, Common Table Personnel Committee, Board of Ordained Ministry Advisory Team, Bishop's Way Forward Work Group, and Bishop's Vision Steering Committee Meetings (very thankful for ZOOM meeting technology)
- Conducted *Meet Your Pastor* with one Staff/Pastor-Parish Committee
- Attended the *Goodson Academy for Preaching*
- Consulted with laity and clergy in person, by phone, and through email

A Message from our District Lay Leader



Easter morning is fast approaching. A time to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. In Christ, His name is love and in love let us all gather to participate in the work of our churches. Let us stay focused on the task ahead of us and pray ideas will be shared and plans will be made. We all need to work together, to put personal preferences aside for the sake of our communities, just as Christ rose again so we will show his love.

I share with you a message to all Virginia Conference Laity from our Conference Lay Leader, Warren Harper. [Click HERE](#) for his message.

God Bless all of you, **Gary Morris**
Gary.Morris9251@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates

April 18 - **District Office** closes at noon for Maundy Thursday

April 19 - **District Office** is closed for Good Friday

Wed, April 24 - **Hermitage Guild Spring Mtg**, 10:30 am, Hermitage, Roanoke

Sat, April 27 - [Roanoke Vision Day](#) - 9:30 am, First UMC, Salem

May 22 - **District Common Table**, 10 am, Alta Mons, Shawsville

May 23 - **Clergy Farewell Dinner**, 6 pm, St. Mark's, Daleville (*note date change*)

June 1 - **UMW Day at Ferrum** - 9:30 am, Ferrum College

June 1 - **Bishop Weaver Gathering** - 3 pm, Bethlehem UMC, Moneta

June 9 - **Annual Conference Orientation** - 3 pm, Huntington Court UMC, Roanoke

June 20-22 - [Annual Conference](#) at Berglund Center in Roanoke

June 22 - **5K Greenway Walk/Run** - 6:15 am, Lick Run Greenway, Roanoke

July 25-26 - [Helping Hands Children's Mission Program](#) - Windsor Hills UMC

July 26-28 - **Mission Encounter** - Smith Mountain Lake 4H Camp, Wirtz

Details and Future Events on Website

Prayer Celebrations & Requests

*Praying for the message of Resurrection and Everlasting Life
as our churches share the Easter story this Holy Week.*

For **Bishop Sharma Lewis** -- who is now out of the hospital and rehabilitation center and recovering at home. She would like to thank again the Virginia Conference for the enormous expressions of love through emails, texts, cards and flowers. Please continue to keep her in your prayers. Cards and well wishes may be sent to: Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, c/o Terri Biggins, PO Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606.

For **James Stovall**, the new Executive Director at the Hermitage- Roanoke.

For **St Marks UMC** (Daleville) who are celebrating 50 years of ministry, the anniversary of three churches joining together in mission. They will have a huge celebration in September!

Roanoke District Prepares for Annual Conference - June 20-22



Virginia UMC Annual Conference is
returning to the Berglund Center

Volunteers - From registration, ushers, collecting UMCOR kits, 5K, set up, clean up, and more, hundreds of volunteers will be needed to help the week of Annual Conference. [REGISTER ONLINE NOW](#), or you can contact Terri Urquart at terriu@rcumc.org.

5K Walk/Run/Bike - Annual Conference is sponsoring a 5K on Saturday, June 22 at 6:15 am on the Lick Run Greenway to raise money for **Kids Soar!**. Save the date! We will need lots of volunteers and participants. If you would like to be part of the team or an event volunteer, please contact Amy Robertson at amyrobertson1022@gmail.com.

Kits for Conference - While other types of kits have been collected in the past, UMCOR is currently focusing efforts on **Cleaning Kits, Hygiene Kits and School Kits**.

Cans 4 Conference - We 'CAN' Make a Difference - please bring 4 cans, or bags, of non-perishable food to Annual Conference, to support the Roanoke Rescue Mission and their food program, Manna Ministries. Please do NOT bring home-canned items out-of-date cans, or glass jars. For more information contact Herb Brynildsen at herbbrynildsen@vaumc.org.

Help a Local Church with the Builder's Club



The Roanoke District Builder's Club, a ministry of the Roanoke District Board of Mission and Church Extension, is pleased to support Mount Olivet UMC, Boones Mill with their first "Call" of 2019. The funds will assist Mount Olivet UMC to pay for the necessary replacement of the heating system for their worship space. The **Builder's Club** is the primary sources of funding for building related project grants from the Roanoke District Board of Missions and Church Extension. These grants include capital repairs, improvements and expansions that enhance a congregation's effective ministry and mission.

Consider becoming a member of the **Builder's Club** and commit to respond to calls for contributions twice each year. For more information on the **Builder's Club** and how to become a member [CLICK HERE](#).

Local Mission Grants Approved



The Roanoke District Board of Missions and Church Extension approved \$53,600 in grants at their Annual Meeting March 17, 2019 at White Memorial UMC. It is the generous stewardship of United Methodists across our district through Apportionments and Builder's Club that makes these grants possible. Grants were approved for the following churches and organizations:

- **Extension Grants:** in the form of a **Builder's Club Call** to Mt. Olivet UMC for replacement of HVAC system.
- **Grants to United Methodist programs:** Kids Soar (formerly Community Outreach Program) for Literacy Program and Youth Program; Mays Memorial UMC for backpack program, Parrish Chapel UMC for food pantry, Raleigh Court UMC for Celebrate Recovery program; the District Superintendent's Discretionary fund.
- **Grants to Community Programs:** Botetourt Resource Center, Community Christmas Store, Family Promise of Roanoke, Food Pantry of Salem/Roanoke County, Local Office on Aging (LOA), Presbyterian Community Center (PCC), Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM), and Total Action for Progress (TAP).

HERMITAGE

ROANOKE

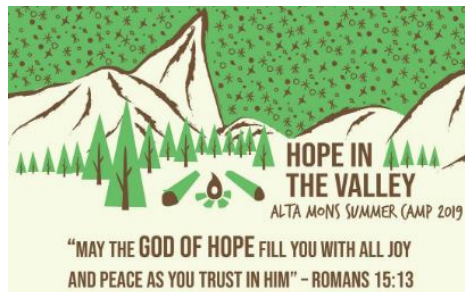
PINNACLE LIVING

Hermitage Guild Spring Meeting

The Annual Spring Meeting of the **Hermitage Community Guild** will be on Wednesday, April 24. Gathering is at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room at Hermitage Roanoke. The new **Executive Director, James Stovall**, will be introduced to the group and we will hear from **Martha Stokes, Pinnacle Representative**. Lunch will be served, but reservations have to be in by Monday

Register for Summer Camps

Register for Summer Camp! -- We have camps (both day and overnight) for children and youth in grades K through 12. Our theme is "**Hope In The Valley**". Check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for more information, including [online registration](#)!



Apply now for Summer Staff -- Do you know a young person that would benefit from serving a summer in camp ministry? Job descriptions of open positions and a staff application are available [online](#).

Thank you -- to the over 75 volunteers who came out and helped clean up Alta Mons on **Paul Bunyan Day** last month! We appreciate your time and efforts!

Seeking Small Instruments -- for use during music and worship times at camp. Great instruments would be bongo drums, tambourines, maracas, etc. Please contact Meredith about donations to ensure camp doesn't get overloaded with instruments! We are looking to use during summer camp to get our campers more involved with worship!

Don't forget that **Alta Mons** is open year round and has a wide variety of retreat spaces available for use. Whether you're looking to plan a retreat for 5 or 50, we can help! Call our office at 540-268-2409 for more information.

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

[Alta Mons website](#)

Wesley at Virginia Tech Spring Break Mission Trip



This past month **Wesley** had their Spring Break Mission Trip to Plymouth, NC where they worked with with **Coastal Carolina Rebuilding Ministry (CCRE)**. Thirty students, Bret, and Cory Lutz (a contractor), worked on four homes -- replaced an entire 25 sq ft roof in three days (de-shingled, patched boards, and re-shingled), repaired a ceiling, drywalled and painted a bathroom, replaced a

bedroom floor, built a 48-foot wheelchair ramp, and fixed a shower! For the relational side of the trip they helped out their local coffeeshop by preparing food and doing bible study, visited with shut-ins from a local church, met with residents at a local nursing home to provide prayer and a devotion, and then met with a local Celebrate Recovery group. The week, as usual, was full of worship, fun, fellowship, and lots of ministry! It was a fantastic week of doing ministry with others! Students' lives were transformed as they sought to transform the lives of the community they were in that week.

Rev. Bret Gresham, Campus Minister
www.vtwesley.com 540-552-2827

Thanks from Kids Soar (formerly COP)

Can you believe that **September 2019** is our **30-year anniversary**? Please share your pictures and memories with us so we can celebrate and truly experience how this program has grown into what is **Kids Soar** today. With God, prayer, and your support we will continue to help our children **SOAR** long into the future! Please email your information and stories to: stories@kidsoar.org



Please participate in the **5K Walk/Run/Bike** on Saturday, June 22 at 6:15 am (part of Annual Conference), that will help support **Kids Soar**!

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

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

Opportunities to Serve at UM Conference Missions

All God's Children Camp Needs Mentors and Drivers -- Staff is working hard to make sure it will be a week full of outdoor activities, camp fires, fellowship, worship and laughter, for children with an incarcerated parent. Mentors and drivers are needed for both weeks at Camp Chanco on the James, June 16-21 and August 11-16. Contact Lori Smith at littlelori@gmail.com or 571-245-9591.

Camp Rainbow Connection Needs Loving Volunteers -- CRC is a week-long respite camp for adults with intellectual disabilities. Our volunteers lead classes (music, art, Bible and science) and a variety of activities that include a camper talent show and a dance. -- June 22-28 and July 27-Aug 2 at Richard Bland College in Petersburg, VA. If you are interested (even if only for part of the camp session), contact StacyRoberts@vaumc.org.

United Methodist Women - Annual Conference Breakfast - June 21



Virginia UMW Annual Conference Breakfast Friday, June 21, 2019 6:45 am

Holiday Inn - Valley View, 3315 Ordway Drive, NW Roanoke, VA 24017
Includes a breakfast buffet and featured speaker, Darlene Amon, former Conference UMW President and member of the 2019 General Conference Virginia Delegation. The cost is \$18.00. Tickets may be purchased with a check/debit card at: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/406158> or ordered from me by June 12, 2019. All are welcome.

Celebrate the resurrection and our salvation!
Phyllis Geoghegan, District UMW President
phyllisg9@verizon.net 804-896-6297

Local Churches & Organizations

April 19 - **A Picture of Calvary**: 7:30 pm at [Woodlawn UMC](#), 2922 Corbieshaw Rd, SW, (just off Brambleton), Roanoke. Free

April 19 - **Good Friday Cantata - 7 Last Words** 7 pm with choir and orchestra and April 20 - **Beauty of the Cross**: Display of crosses from around the world, 9 am-12 noon at [Raleigh Court UMC](#), 1706 Grandin Rd SW, Roanoke. Free.

May 2 - **Faith Based Safety Summit**: Join local police departments and religious leaders for open discussion and demonstrations about safety and security concerns at places of worship, 10 am-5 pm at Thrasher Memorial UMC, 707 E. Washington Ave, Vinton. Free event. [Register online](#) or email at tbutts@roanokecountryva.gov.

May 2 - **Interfaith Prayer Breakfast**: 7:15 am, Kazim Temple, 628 Campbell Ave, Roanoke. Cost is \$7 and tickets are needed. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. Contact Gary Durek 580-5617, or any Kiwanis member, for tickets.

May 11 - **Informational Meeting on Human Trafficking**: St. Paul UMW (Christiansburg) is hosting this community-wide meeting, led by [Street Ransom](#), the human trafficking organization/shelter in Roanoke. Begins with breakfast at 9:30 am. This is a FREE event for ALL folks (not suitable for small children). [St. Paul UMC](#), 220 Main St, Christiansburg.

Bishop's Scouting Dinner Postponed to 2020



The Bishop of the Virginia Conference recognizes the United Methodist Church Scouting & Civic Youth-Serving Ministry as a valuable tool for including Boy Scouts,

Girl Scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Campfire Boys and Girls as part of the church's outreach program. The **Roanoke District** is excited to host the Bishop's dinner, which has been moved to 2020 so the **Bishop Lewis** can attend.

GET READY: Encourage your church to organize and sponsor Boy Scouts www.bsa-brmc.org, Girl Scouts www.gsvsc.org and support Big Brother/Big Sisters of SW Virginia www.bigslittles.org program. Represent your church as a Scouting Ministry Specialist www.umscouting.org; and provide P.R.A.Y www.praypub.org faith building youth programming in church Sunday School education and through your church youth groups. P.R.A.Y. provides recognitions to recognize persons in your church who exemplify God's witness to youth.

Sharing God's love to youth through the Scouting Ministry,
Bicycling, Boating, Backpacking Barbara Duerk (barbgary@cox.net)

Job Openings

Current job openings, including [St. Marks UMC](#) - Daleville (musician) and [Thrasher Memorial UMC](#) -Vinton (Adm Assistant) in the Roanoke District, are listed on our website: [CLICK HERE for details](#).

VA Conference Phones Changing

The **Virginia UMC Conference Office** in Glen Allen is moving to a new phone system, and this change will make the toll-free phone number (1-800-798-6040) inoperative. The toll-free number was added to the conference phone system when

long distance calls were expensive. The target date for the phone system conversion is Friday, April 19. The toll-free number will work up until that date.
The VA Conference's main phone number is still 804-521-1100.
The Disaster Response number will remain as 866-264-8488.

Bishop's Daily Bible Reading

For 2019, Bishop Sharma Lewis created, [the Bible Challenge](#), a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day. In this new year, challenge yourself to study the Bible daily and strengthen your faith in the process.



Apportionment Information

District and Conference - 100% for 2019 (as of 3/31/19)
Calvary, Christiansburg; Mount Elbert; Mount Pleasant, (Foothills Charge); and
Three Oaks Fellowship

District - 100% for 2019
Foothills (Pierce Chapel)

2018 Statistical Tables must be completed by April 30th.

The Conference Treasurer's office is accepting all last edits to 2018 Stats through the last week of April. Pastors and Treasurers will be receiving a copy of their Stats and asked to review all of the numbers and specifically put their attention to the stats related to Apportionments. At the end April the stats are final and unchangeable on May 1st.

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



Peter (Pete) D. Weaver - Area Interim Bishop
Sharma D. Lewis - Area Bishop (on medical leave)
Kathleen Overby Webster - District Superintendent
Gary Morris - District Lay Leader
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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