

Roanoke United Methodist District E-News September 2019 *(sent 8-15-19 rev)*



District Youth Kick Off Sunday Sept 22 4:30 - 7:30 pm

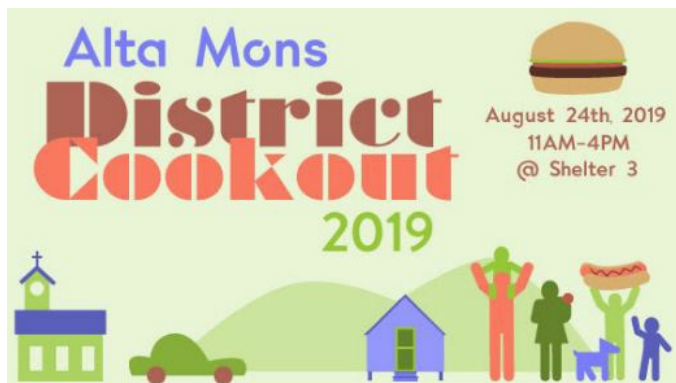


All **YOUTH GROUPS** (youth and youth leaders) are invited! Giant Jenga, Gaga Ball, Corn Hole, Kickball, Laser Tag, Giant UNO, catered food, Giant Spoons and a concert by [Relinquish](#) (see photo above)! Download a [FLYER](#) to share this with your church.

Offering will be collected for the Conference Youth Service Fund (YSF). Remember each church's youth leaders are responsible for following their Safe Sanctuaries policies and having their church's "permission/contact" information with them.

Email TimCraft@vaumc.org with questions and an estimated headcount by **Monday, Sept 13**. Kick off will be held at [Cave Spring UMC](#), 4505 Hazel Drive, Roanoke.

District Cookout at Alta Mons Aug 24



See you at the **7th Annual District Cookout: Saturday August 24**. Bring a potluck dish to share and enjoy Alta Mons -- pool, high ropes course, music, wagon rides, and fellowship! We hope to see you there!

Summer Camp was a huge success thanks to all of our staff, volunteers, and camper families! We served 227 children and

youth this summer and we are already excited for **Winter Camp** (December 20-22). Special thanks to pastors Alan Combs (First UMC Salem), Pat Jones (Park UMC), Jeff Wilson (Huntington Court UMC), and Amanda Garber (RISE, a UMC Faith Community in Harrisonburg) for serving as chaplains. Also special thanks to Daphne Huffman (Raleigh Court UMC), Debbie Jones (Cave Spring UMC), Jean Broyles (Northview UMC), Sherry Basham (Lawrence Memorial UMC), and Stefanie Hawkins (Thrasher Memorial UMC) for serving as our camp nurses.

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! Check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for current information. See a [recent video](#) about Alta Mons!

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

Alta Mons website

New Dates for PR UVMIM Trip

The **UVMIM trip dates** have been changed to October 7-14, for a 10-12 person team, who will deliver the kits and help with installation. We will have training to equip every team member for the task. The cost of the trip will be \$1,000 per person. If you are interested in being part of this **District UVMIM Team** please contact me. We are working with REHACE (Rebuild, Puerto Rico Methodist Church's Disaster Outreach Committee).



The total collected/ pledged to date is **\$47,463 of our \$50,000 goal!** As of today, **21 churches from our District**, and 2 UM churches from outside the district, have contributed to this project! There is also a wave of contributions from individuals coming to us from the Roanoke and New River Valleys. On behalf of the **Puerto Rico Solar Panel Project team** and the **Roanoke District UMC Common Table**, we would like to give thanks for all the donations and prayers we have received as we work 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.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like **Share the Light** team to help, with resources or presenters to share this mission opportunity with your congregation.

Thank you once more for your partnership in ministry! [Click HERE](#) for info or contact me.

Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun, Share the Light Team Leader
seungsoojun@vaumc.org, 540-344-6011



Where is God calling you to Move Forward?

A Message from our District Superintendent

The image captivated me during each worship service of our summer Cabinet Retreat. For all eight prayer gatherings over three days, the image reflected in the towering windows of the chapel at Roslyn Retreat Center challenged me. Whether it was cloudy or sunny outside, at morning, noon, or evening prayer, wherever I sat in the chapel (right side or left, front or back), still I saw it, reflected on it, wondered about it.

It was an arrow, pointing up and out from the chapel setting. I know it was caused by the reflection of the back window and eaves of the chapel in the expansive glass front. But as many times as I have been in worship services there over the years I had never before noticed that reflection. Coming so soon after our own Annual Conference I immediately noticed the similarity to the arrow on the logo of the theme "Moving Forward

in God's Mission."

I mediated, "Where in my life, God, are you calling me to move forward?" "What mission of yours, God, needs my involvement?" "Where, God, can I see you moving?" "What do I need to do, God, to help your mission?"

I noticed that lines of the building which are so fixed appeared wavy in the reflection. "Where, God," I prayed, "are you inviting me to flex and bend and shift in order to move ahead?"

As the heartbreak in our nation continues, as the discord in our denomination intensifies, as racism festers, and civil discourse breaks down, what signs do you see that call you and your congregation to take the next faithful step with God in mission? What bold new mission is God calling you to move forward? What in your heart or mind, spirit or activity needs to flex, bend, or shift in order to move ahead with and for God?

In the hope and peace of Christ,
Kathleen

In July, I:

- Preached for Mt Elbert UMC, Belview UMC, and First (Salem) UMC
- Enjoyed the Annual Clergy Welcome Luncheon at the Natural Bridge Hotel hosted by the Oakey Family
- Participated in the July Cabinet Retreat
- Attended Annual Conference Planning Committee meeting, Bishop's Way Forward Work Group meeting, Bishop's VITAL team meetings, and Bishop's Strategic Visioning Planning Team meeting
- Participated in District Finance Committee meeting
- Enjoyed Voices of Youth Concert
- Consulted with laity and clergy in person, by phone, and through email

Upcoming Events

Aug 24 - **Annual District Cook Out** at [Alta Mons](#), 11 am - 4 pm

Aug 25 - **UMW District - Open Executive Mtg** - 3 pm, Asbury UMC, Christiansburg

Sept 2 - **Labor Day** - District Office closed

Sept 4 - **Administrative Assistants Breakfast Meeting** 9 am, District Office

Sept 5 - **Clergy Summit**, 9:30 am - 2 pm, Windsor Hills UMC, Roanoke

Sept 11 - [Clergy Ethics Training](#), 9:30 am, St. Johns UMC, Buena Vista

Sept 12 - **District Nominations Committee**, 12:30 pm, District Office

Sept 21 - [Bishop's Convocation on Prayer](#), 9:30 am Trinity UMC, Richmond

Sept 22 - [District Youth Fall Kick Off](#), 4:30 pm, Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke

Nov 10 - **District Conference**, 3 pm, Thrasher Memorial UMC, Vinton

Nov 14 - [5 Talent Academy](#), 8:30 am, Thrasher Memorial UMC (satellite)

[Charge Conferences Schedule](#)

[Details and Future Events on Website](#)

Prayer Celebrations & Requests

Bishop Sharma Lewis -- After a six-month medical leave, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis' return to the Virginia Conference is planned for September 2019. Lewis started her medical leave at the beginning of March as she underwent several hip surgeries. In her absence, Bishop Peter D. Weaver, retired bishop, was named the interim episcopal leader. Lewis said she is appreciative of all the prayers and gestures of care and concern she received from around the conference and United Methodist connection. She has steadily improved in her recovery and the time frame of her return is contingent on her continued healing and by advisement of her medical team.

For **Rev. Jerry John** (Retired Elder) and his wife **Mary**, as they celebrated their 69 wedding anniversary on August 1!

For **Rev. Douglas Newman**, (Retired Elder) and his family, as his wife, **Phyllis Ports Newman**, passed away at the age of 93 on August 10. No service is planned at this time.

For **Rev. Brenda Sternfeld** (Crockett Springs UMC and Halls UMC) and her family in your prayers. Brenda's nephew, **Carlos**, passed away at the age of 17. A memorial service was held on Sunday, July 21st at Halls UMC in Elliston. Carolyn and David Carr, Carlos' parents, and his siblings are members of Halls UMC.

Willing to Serve on a District Team?

Disciples of Jesus Christ influence others- have you ever considered that your sphere of influence might include leadership in the Roanoke District? The **District Nominations Committee**, will soon begin the work of identifying members from our local churches who are gifted, called, and willing to serve on district boards and committees beginning in 2020. If you discern you are willing to be considered for leadership through Common Table, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Superintendency Committee, or Nominations Committee; or if you would like to know more about the commitment such leadership entails, please contact the district at: RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org or 540-989-3335 by September 10. This contact will allow us to gather some additional information to be used by the Nominations Committee in their discernment.

Convocation on Prayer

The [Bishop's Convocation on Prayer](#) is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21 at Trinity UMC in Richmond. Both clergy and laity are invited to attend the gathering which will include Dr. Terry Tekyl as plenary speaker and breakout small groups. Cost is \$10 which includes lunch. Click [HERE for a PDF brochure](#). Deadline to [register](#) is Sept. 13.



District United Methodist Women

Open Executive Meeting - Roanoke District August 25 at 3 pm

Asbury UMC, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073

All are welcome, especially local unit officers

Devotional and Prayer Time * Review 2020 Budget and Calendar

Input for speakers and programs * Reports from District Officers * Fellowship Time

Women under 40 are invited to the Conference UMW's [Young Women's retreat](#) September 13-14, 2019 Camp Overlook's Blessings Lodge in Keezletown, Virginia. This

is an annual retreat for young women ages 18- 40.

Phyllis Geoghegan, District UMW President
phyllisg9@verizon.net, 804-896-6297



District Conference 2019

Sunday, November 10 at 3 pm

Thrasher Memorial UMC, 707 East Washington Ave, Vinton

Members of the **United Methodist Church Roanoke District** will gathering for their **152nd District Conference**. Election of

District Boards and Committees, and Recognition of Ministries and Leadership will be followed by worship featuring music presented by a district choir.

To self nominate as an **At Large Annual Conference 2020 Delegate** this **FORM (PDF)** must be completed and returned before November 1st. A WORD version is available by request to: RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org

To join the choir representing all Roanoke District churches that will provide special music during worship contact Josh O'Dell at: jodell@thrasherumc.org.

Community Transformation Nov 14



Thursday, Nov. 14 will be the main Clergy and Laity **5 Talent Event** at Woodlake UMC and livestreamed to locations around the state, including **Thrasher Memorial UMC** in the Roanoke District. Bishop Carter will be preaching and speakers will be the Rev. Michael Adam Beck, Wildwood UMC, Fla.; the Rev. Jaqueline Lewis, Middle Collegiate Church, New York, N.Y.; and the Rev. Andy and the Rev. Anjie Woodworth, Neighborhood Church, Atlanta, Ga. They will address what it looks like to be a neighborhood church, what is a community partner, and what is a fresh expression. If you plan to attend in a group from your church, every fifth person in a group registration goes free. Fees for the events are as follows: Nov. 14 event - \$35; Nov. 13 & 14 events - \$60; Nov. 13 event only - \$50. Registration prices increase after Sept. 30. To register, visit www.vaumc.org/5talent. For questions, contact MaryKaye Cochran at marykayecochran@vaumc.org.



Helping Hands Children's Mission

Helping Hands was an exciting two-day (July 25-26) mission experience for children (rising 4th through 6th Graders) from throughout Virginia, hosted at **Windsor Hills UMC**. The kids, in the photo, served with such joy in their hearts all day. The residents of Pheasant Ridge loved the blankets the kids made, playing Bingo, and eating Ice Cream Sundaes. They ventured to the

Rescue Mission to decorate placemats, made table favors, and made blessing bags to deliver to those in need within our communities. May those we served filled the love of God through our hands and feet!! Watch for dates for next year's Conference event.

Heather Case, District Children's Ministry Coordinator
heathercase@whumc.roacoxmail.com, 540-774-4730

Thanks from Kids Soar (formerly COP)

As the summer comes to a close, **Kids Soar** is collecting: Composition notebook, Spiral notebooks, No.2 pencils, Crayons, Color pencils, Bookbags, Glue sticks, Markers, Gallon/Quart size baggies, Child size scissors, Tissues and Clorox wipes.



If you're passionate about feeding a warm meal to children, **Kids Soar** could be the perfect niche for your inner chef or small group! We are looking for groups/individuals to feed our children on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and groups to feed our parents and children on Monday nights for our family night program! Please give us a call!

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

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

UM Men's Event

2019 Spiritual Advance: Transforming Grace
Baylake UMC - VA Beach Sept 27-28



Join with UM Men of the Virginia Conference for the 2019 Spiritual Advance with Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson, author of *The Class Meeting* and teacher at our 2019 VA Annual Conference. Our guest speakers will be Greg Arnold, General Commission on Methodist Men, and Odell Horne, speaking on YoungER men's ministry. See [2019 Spiritual Advance details](#) for registration, including discounts, church sponsorships, hotels, and the VAUMM/Heart Havens Golf Tournament. Registration deadline is Aug 28.

Andrew Kissell, Conference UMM President
Andrew.Kissell@aecom.com 757-839-0790

Local Churches & Organizations

August 25 - [CROP HUNGER WALK](#), Team Leader Mtg, 2-4 pm, at First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 2101 Jefferson St SW, Roanoke. Answer questions and distribute info on the upcoming [CROP WALK](#), set for Sunday, Oct 19 @ 2pm.

Sept 8 - 1:30 – 4:00 pm, The Allies Reconciling Community of [Cave Spring UMC](#), 4505 Hazel Drive in Roanoke, invites you to a regional gathering sponsored by Virginia Methodists for Something New, Reconciling Ministries Network, and Methodist Federation for Social Action. A time of worship, fellowship and training is planned and child care will be provided.

Sept 18 - Oct 23 - 6:30-8 pm, Study on the opioid epidemic using Beth Macy's book "Dopesick". At South Roanoke UMC, (2330 South Jefferson St SE, Roanoke) in partnership with the Prevention Council of Roanoke County. This 6-week event is free, and participants are not obligated to purchase or read the book to attend. However, please register with Kathy Kuelz, 540-344-4437 or kathy@srumc.com.

Sept 21 - Save the date! **The Hermitage Guild** will have a fundraiser at [Hermitage-Roanoke](#). More details to follow. Contact Louise Miller, rolmiller119@gmail.com, for information and how you can help.

Read the Bible with Bishop Lewis

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 7/31/19)

Calvary, Christiansburg; Fairview; Mount Elbert; Mount Olivet; Mount Pleasant (Foothills Charge); and Three Oaks Fellowship

District - 100% for 2019

Pierce Chapel (Foothills Charge) and White Memorial

The 2020 Conference and District Apportionment statements have been sent to your church. Questions? Check [the minutes](#) of the recent District Stewards meeting.

Apportionments are the way that our connected church works together to accomplish what could never be done on our own. We share the costs of district, conference and worldwide church ministries, with each local church being responsible for contributing a fair share or “apportionment.” This is the “First-Mile Giving” expected of all United Methodists. The power of our apportionments — our collective First-Mile giving — is that it enables United Methodists to do together what no church, district or annual conference could do alone. Gifts that empower the ministry of The United Methodist Church are expressions of both personal faith and connected faith.

There are many resources available to assist you in communicating the impact and importance of apportionments including the following:

[Mission Opportunities 2019-2020](#) printed copies are also available in the District Office

[What Are Apportionments?](#) shared at 2019 district gatherings with Bishop Weaver
[Roanoke District Book of Reports](#) from District Conference 2018

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

Roanoke District of the United Methodist Church

4502 Starkey Rd, Ste 1010, Roanoke 24018-8538 540-989-3335

Email RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org Website www.RoanokeUMC.org

[News from the Virginia Conference of the UMC](#)



