

April
2011



Inside this issue:

2011 Annual Conference	1
District Superintendent	1
Prayer Requests	1
Lay Servant Ministries	1
District Events	2
Alta Mons	2
Annual Conference Offering	2
UM Women	3
District Board of Missions	3
District Events & News	3
C.O.P. Opportunities	4
One Great Hour of Sharing	4

From our District Superintendent

Dear church leaders,

I have heard lots from people this year about how Easter is so late. I have read pastoral letters in newsletters sharing about how Easter is placed on the calendar based on the beginning of spring and the full moon. And I guess I need to confess that I find all of this to be kind of funny. I believe Easter is never late! Easter is God's

expression of a great love for us. Easter is a reminder of how Jesus died for us and for how God provided resurrection as a witness to the eternal life we are promised. So when you wonder if Easter will ever get here or isn't Lent lasting a long time, get it right my friends, Easter is always RIGHT ON TIME!

After all, we are Easter peo-

ple, everyday! Verse 4 of the hymn, *Easter People, Raise your Voices*, says it all: Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song."

Happy Easter!

Steve
Hundley



"Being Christ to Others: Snapshots of the Kingdom" will be the theme when 2011 Annual Conference convenes June 15-19 at the Roanoke Civic Center. The focus of the gathering will be on mission..... as well as electing delegates to 2012 General and Jurisdictional conferences.

Remember in Your Prayers:

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Mrs. Teresa Williams**, wife of the Rev. Herbert C. Williams, Jr., who died on March 5th. Rev. Williams is pastor of White Memorial UMC in Shawsville.

Please remember **Dr. Andee Lough**, wife of the Rev. Rob Lough, as she recovers from a recent medical procedure. Rev. Lough is pastor of Pembroke Charge.

Also remember **Rev. Mickey White**, pastor of Mountain View Charge, as he recovers from a recent medical procedure.

Congratulations to the **Rev. Gustavo and Lori Segovia** on the birth of their son, Robert Matthew Segovia-Valentine, on March 18th. Rev. Segovia is pastor of Hispanos Unidos and Wesley Memorial UMC.

Lay Servant (Speaking) Ministries

The Roanoke District Spring Lay Servant (Speaking) Ministries Rally and Training Event will be held April 8th and 9th at St. Paul UMC in Christiansburg. Registration fee: \$25 for Basic Class and \$30

for Advanced Class. Checks payable to *Roanoke District UMC* (Memo: Lay Speaking Event). Fee includes Saturday breakfast, lunch, and literature. Deadline for registration is **Wednesday, April**

6th. Information regarding classes offered and a registration form are available on the district website www.roanokeumc.org.



News from Camp Alta Mons

Alta Mons has 2011 packed with fun activities, events, volunteer days and opportunities for all ages. For a full description of events and to download a yearly calendar, visit www.altamons.org. Below are the next few events on the calendar. Check out our website, call or email for more information: www.altamons.org or office@altamons.org or call 540-268-2409.

Green Up Day (Saturday, April 30) Celebrate 'Earth Day Week' by helping "green-up" the camp. This event is focused around environmental stewardship. The morning provides an opportunity for volunteering centered on being 'green' such as spreading mulch, landscaping flower beds, trash hikes, cleaning up the creek and recycling. The event includes a free lunch and is suitable for all age groups.

Memorial Day Weekend (Sat., May 28-Sun., May 29) During Memorial Day Weekend, families, groups and individuals are welcome to stay at Alta Mons

for a reduction in the regular rates. Saturday brings a full day of free events such as hiking, swimming, wagon rides, fishing and more program activities. Meals are offered for reduced rates on Saturday, including a cook-out lunch. The day ends around the campfire with songs, stories and S'mores!

Swimming Pool (Open Memorial Day to Labor Day) The pool is open to the public every Saturday 10am-5:30pm and Sunday 1pm-6pm (weather permitting). At all other times, the pool is available for rent by groups and for use by the Summer Camp Program. Swimming classes are offered for children and adults. *Look out for the special Dog Swim Day at the end of the season.

Staff, Volunteers and Chaplains Needed We are now accepting applications for staff and volunteers for Summer Camp 2011 "Extreme Home Makeover". Alta Mons offers a Summer

Camp Program focused on small group Christian adventure, blending traditional camp activities with biblically orientated "teachable moments" led by Christian counselors and staff. Alta Mons seeks to affirm the self worth of all persons with all camp activities, cabin discussions, group worship, campfires and all while having a GREAT time. Typical camp activities include nature studies, crafts, pool, fishing, hikes, field games, low and high cooperation courses, archery, campouts and more.

Volunteers Needed (Year-round) As the phones spring to life and the grass begins to grow, consider volunteering at Alta Mons. Volunteers are needed year-round in the office, grounds and for special skills and projects. With over 850 acres of land, 22 buildings and events all year round, Alta Mons needs you. Contact the office at 540-268-2409 if you are able to help.

Rockingham Court UMC is looking for a part-time bookkeeper for their After School and summer Camp Children's Center. Anyone interested should contact Sheri Minnix at 540-798-5763

The Roanoke District Newsletter is also available on the district website www.roanokeumc.org under "Newsletter Archives". Feel free to copy articles or send the newsletter to other members of your church.

Greene Memorial UMC, 402 Second St. at Church Ave., is again serving as host for the Wednesday Downtown Noonday Services. Sponsored by the churches of downtown Roanoke, these 25-minute services begin at 12:05 - 12:30 pm and offer messages of faith and hope from Roanoke's area clergy. With the home-cooked lunch that immediately follows (suggested donation, \$6) you can come to the service, eat lunch and be back in your office in less than an hour! The services will run through May 25th.

First UMC (FUMC) of Salem launched a new contemporary service entitled GENESIS to a packed house Sunday, Feb. 28. The GENESIS Service is held each Sunday at 8:45 am in the church fellowship hall and is a casual worship service with a live praise band and multimedia presentation. The community is invited and encouraged to attend.

District Apportionments PAID in full for 2011:

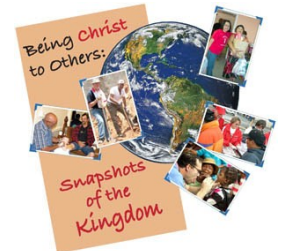
- Mt. Tabor UMC
- Mt. Elbert UMC
- Christiansburg - Calvary

Annual Conference Offering

Bishop Charlene Kammerer has announced that the 2011 Annual Conference Offering goal is \$200,000 and will benefit four mission projects:

- **Mozambique:** \$50,000—leadership development training for laity and clergy in the United Methodist Church in Mozambique and funding for the Living Well Society in its ministry of drilling new wells for drinking water;
- **Brazil:** \$50,000—minister to the spiritual, physical, educational, social and emotional needs of at-risk children through the Shade and Fresh Water program and the John Wesley Medical Boat, both sponsored by the Brazil Methodist Church;
- **Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Eastern Shore:** \$50,000—help with the center's ministry in this small rural ethnic minority community of Horntown as it strives to provide a healthy nurturing environment for at-risk children; and
- **Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries, Roanoke:** \$50,000—minister to the disenfranchised of downtown Roanoke with an emphasis on the recovering community, immigrant community and marginalized people.

More information about Annual Conference and this offering is available at www.vaumc.org.



Roanoke District UMW

Lou Talbutt, District President



Over the last few years I have observed the ages of women attending UMW events at my local church as well as District and Conference level meetings. What we all know is that women below fifty are becoming fewer and fewer at our events. The average age is beginning to look like sixty to seventy plus. I love my peers but I worry about the future. What will UMW look like 50 years from now? Will we still exist? Are we doing enough now to impact our future? I am talking about our total organization, not just Roanoke District.

At our District Training Event on February 12, forty two (42) women attended. Of that number only four (4) were in the age category of fifty or younger. Seven (7) were between the ages of 51 and 60. Fifteen (15) were between the ages of 61

and 70, and the largest age group present (16) was over the age of seventy. While this simple survey is unscientific, I believe it still illustrates the point that we need some young women to help us. I understand why we are tired.

Are we doing enough to educate the new women about our organization? Do the younger women understand our pledges, missions, reading program, and strong commitments based on our past history. If local churches do not use their program books and many do not, how will new members learn about pledge moneys, prayer and self-denial, and missions? I have been invited to First Salem to participate in their prayer and self-denial program next week and I am pleased that they are using the program book. How many units have used or plan to use

their program books for a minimum of two programs this year? I wish our churches would use the pledge service from the program book in order to help members think about their pledges and discuss how the pledges are used. If we live by our purpose, our lives should illustrate to those around the value of who we are.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Spiritual Life Retreat on April 16th at Crockett Springs/Camp Alta Mons. The program will be a "Celebration of Peace through Music." We are asking women to let us know on their registration forms if they need child care. Please pass the word that women of all ages are welcome and we want to make our events attractive and easy for young women. We hope to welcome a large group of women of all ages to this special program and lunch.

Thank you to the Roanoke District Mission Celebration Team for their work in making the events of March 25th-27th a huge success. Members of the team were Nancy Dickison, chair; Alda Bower; Jean Broyles; Al Colgrove; Tim Craft; Becky Day; Don Edwards; Carol and Hartley Gaston; Becky and Steve Hundley; Deb Keeney; Mary Lou Lewis; Louise and Roy Miller; Sheila Overstreet; Becky Parsons; Tindal Snider; Nate Spencer; Amy Thomas and Susan Wagner.

Roanoke District Board of Missions

The annual meeting of the Roanoke Board of Missions was held March 6, 2011. \$11,500 was approved for Church Extension grants and \$118,500 was approved for Program grants for a total of \$130,000. Grants were approved for the following churches and organizations:

- Extension Grants: Camp Alta Mons, Ebenezer UMC and First UMC, Pembroke
- Program Grants: Community Christmas Store, Community College Ministries, Community Outreach Program, Feeding America Food Bank, Food Pantry, Hispanos Unidos, May's Memorial UMC, Park UMC, Parrish Chapel, Presbyterian Community Center, Rescue Mission, Roanoke Area Ministries, Roanoke Valley Inter-faith Hospitality Network, Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries, Summer Enrichment Program, TAP Families in Transition, Wesley Foundation (VPI & SU), West End UMC

In addition, Crockett Springs UMC and First UMC, Pembroke were designated as the recipients of Builder's Club calls for 2011.

District Events & News:

Huntington Court UMC will host an outdoor spring concert on Saturday, April 2, at 2:00 pm featuring Nashville contemporary recording artist, Jennifer Martin. The concert will be held on the front lawn, so bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Plan to stay after for a picnic dinner. The spring event will be free to our community. Huntington Court is located at 3333 Williamson Rd. Call 366-2465 for more information.

The spring meeting of the Roanoke District Hermitage Guild will be April 21 at the Roanoke UM Home. Fellowship time will be at 10:30 am and the meeting will begin at 11:00 am. Complimentary lunch will be provided at 12:30 pm. Please make reservations by April 18 by calling the home at 767-6800.

Events to be held at Greene Memorial UMC:

**Caring for God's Creation* will be the focus on Sunday, April 3, at 9:00 and 11:00 am with the Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter, an ordained Elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference of the UMC speaking.

**Me, Myself, and I*, a week-end for women will be Friday, April 8, 7:00-9:00 pm and Saturday, April 9, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. This event will focus on learning how to care for yourselves emotionally, spiritually, and socially...and featuring guest speakers who focus on these needs. Some topics for the event: Every Woman Wants to be a Princess; Hire a Heavenly Lawyer; Get By with a Little Help from Your Friends; Celebrating Womanhood: From Bubbles to Beaus, Babies to Bedpans and much more.....The cost is \$25 for both days or \$15 per day which includes lunch on Saturday. Deadline for pre-registration is April 5.

*Sunday, April 10, at 2:30 pm will be a new children's ministry event for children in the community. Stephen Christoff, a folk musician, will perform songs from the colonial period in America using his guitar, mandolin, hand-flute, bowed musical saw and jaw harp.

Call Debbie Brown at 344-6225 or email her at DebbieB@gmumc.org.

Community Outreach Program Opportunities

There are so many opportunities to participate in at Community Outreach Program (C.O.P.) They can be done individually, as a family, a youth group, Sunday school class, congregation, book club, civic organization, etc.

- C.O.P. Charity Golf Tournament on April 16th at Hanging Rock Golf Club. Contact Hartley Gaston at (540) 580-0412 or via email at Lchepo@aol.com if you wish to be a sponsor, donate items, volunteer or play.
- It won't be long until school will be out for the summer. A camp scholarship for a C.O.P. child or youth to attend Camp Alta Mons is only \$110. This will insure that they have three meals a day, and a safe environment away from drugs, alcohol and violence all while experiencing God.
- Reserve April 20th - Fundraiser at Hollywood's Restaurant, 7770 Williamson Rd. (near Hollins University). C.O.P. will receive 10% of the take from 4:00 - 10:00 pm.
- Donations of camp supplies are now being collected through June. Each C.O.P. camper receives a towel, washcloth, bar of soap, shampoo, deodorant (for older youth), brush or large comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, sunscreen and insect repellent.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deb Keeney at domaha@cox.net or Becky Parsons at beck12_98@yahoo.com, or call C.O.P. at 342-3103.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Restoration.
Healing.
Hope.

"The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

Paul Jeffrey

John 9:11b, NRSV

On April 3, United Methodists will have the opportunity to do a world of good through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHOS). The annual churchwide offering on the fourth Sunday in Lent underwrites the UM Church's ministry of compassion to survivors of disaster and extreme need, by providing the funding that secures the "nuts and bolts" of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

For 50 years, United Methodists have supported OGHOS to ensure UMCOR has the funds needed for administrative costs—to keep the lights on and the phones ringing at headquarters. That means that when donors give to designated programs, such as Japan or Haiti relief, those funds go directly to the relief and development field. UMCOR's ministry makes a visible difference in the lives of people in more than 80 countries.

Roanoke District Office
Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church
4502 Starkey Rd., SW, Suite 101
Roanoke, VA 24018

Charlene Payne Kammerer
Area Bishop

Stephen C. Hundley
District Superintendent

Warner Bonderman,
District Lay Leader

Carole P. Click, Office Manager
Fran Burgess, Office Assistant

Phone: 540-989-3335

Fax: 540-989-0672

E-mail: shundley@roanokeumc.org

cclick@roanokeumc.org

fburgess@roanokeumc.org

We're on the web at:

www.roanokeumc.org

The **DEADLINE** for the **NEXT**
ISSUE

is the 15th of the month

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROANOKE, VA
PERMIT #316

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED