

February

2011



A Newsletter of the Roanoke District
VA Conference - The United Methodist Church



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From our District Superintendent

Dear church leaders,

The world might say that I am a lucky man. Why would they say this? It is not because of my rugged good looks or quick wit. It is not because I am a good manager or preacher. No – it is not any of these. It is because of you and the United Methodist Church I serve!

You who always come to your church meetings and lead so effectively!

You who pray regularly for your local church, for the connec-tional church and for me as one of your leaders!

You who on a regular basis come to your place of worship

and study and turn on the A/C, sweep the floor, cook in the church kitchen teach and greet! You who week after week sing in choirs, read liturgy and take time to support your pastors.

You who regularly interpret the worldwide mission of the United Methodist Church and support missionaries and mis-sion around the globe!

You who give financially to support the financial life of our church and make it so THE ROANOKE DISTRICT CAN ONCE AGAIN BE 100% IN APPORTIONMENT GIV-ING IN OUR CONFER-ENCE!

I could go on and on, but there is another correction I would want to make. It is not luck at all – I am blessed by God and you who embody Jesus Christ to me over and over. Blessed I am – so blessed!

Steve Hundley

THANK YOU!



Joy to the World

Mission Celebration

NEEDED: Housing and Transportation for District Mission Celebration Missioners

Housing and transportation are needed for some of our mis-sioner speakers for the District Mission Celebration March 25-27, 2011. If you or others in your church can help or need more information, please contact Carol Gaston at 540-989-7685 or cagaston@aol.com, or Jean Broyles at 540-366-9065 or LVQDAY@aol.com.

Kits for UMCOR

As part of the **District Wide Mission Event** in March, children and their families will be putting together **kits for UMCOR**. We are asking that area churches share this information with their various groups such as UMW, Sunday School classes, etc. to enlist help with this endeavor. We are hoping to collect either money to buy various kit supplies or donated kit supplies. Please share this with your groups and if your group is inter-ested in taking this on as a mis-sion project, please contact Susan Wagner at Bonsack UMC 540-977-4212 or Tindal Snyder at Blacksburg UMC 540-552-5424.

Dr. Efir Returns

March 18-19, 2011, Dr. Mickey Efir from the Duke Divinity School will again be leading a Bible study at Cave Spring UMC. As it will be the season of Lent, this year's topic is *The Passion Narratives*. The study will be on Friday, March 18, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm and Saturday, March 19, from 9:00 - noon. Continuing education credit will be available. The cost for the entire study (which includes both the Friday and Saturday sessions) is \$10. Dinner is available at the church from 6:00 - 7:00 pm on Friday. The cost is \$10 for soup, sandwich, dessert, and beverage. Please register for the study (and dinner) by calling the church office at 989-3673.

Noonday Services

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.

2011 College Scholarships

Membership at the VA UM Credit Union gives you access to the following 2011 scholarships:

- VUMCU (1) \$1500 Scholarship
- Richmond Chapter of Credit Unions (2) \$1500 Scholarships
- Accel Exchange College Grant Program (4) \$5000 Grants and (30) \$1000 Grants

Any member of a VA Conference United Methodist Church is eligible for membership at VUMCU and just \$5 opens an account. Scholarships are for entering freshmen and applications are due mid March. Contact Janie Hightower at: jhightower@vumcu.org

Remember in Your Prayers:

Our sympathy is extended to Vicki and Rev. Bart Weakley on the death of Vicki's brother, **Gary Alan Schroeder**, on January 14th. Rev. Weakley is pastor of Northview UMC.

Our sympathy is extended to Gary and Carole Click on the death of Gary's sister-in-law, **Mrs. Aliene Click**, on January 14th. Carole is the office manager in the district office.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Rev. Paul Pullen**, who was a retired member of the Western PA Conference, and died on January 10th. Rev. Pullen and his wife, Connie, were living in Salem.

Our sympathy is extended to Dr. Michael Houff on the death of his mother, **Mrs. Shirley Houff**, on January 4th. Dr. Houff is currently Staunton District Superintendent.

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.

First Ever Winter Camp was a blast!

The snow fell thickly over the mountains in Shawsville creating perfect weather conditions for the fun and festivities planned for Winter Camp. Snow tubing was followed by snow ball battles, snow man building, animal tracking, more snow tubing, snow ball fights, winter crafts, Charlie Brown Christmas tree decoration competition, stargazing... Intermissions were taken in between to warm up around the fire with homemade hot chocolate. One special highlight of Winter Camp, was a dog sled demonstration given by Sam and Jenny Akers and Baron and Tina Gibson of the Blue Ridge Dryland Musers Club. Between them they brought their five Siberian Huskies to show campers the art of dog sledding. All of the dogs were rescue dogs and they clearly loved the high energy work of pulling the sleds. Throughout the 48 hour event, campers looked at the Christmas story with fresh eyes. Campers and counselors were reluctant to say goodbye as family and friends came to pick them up. We look forward to Winter Camp becoming a long running tradition

at Alta Mons.

Visit www.roanoke.com "Sled dogs and their people" to see an article on the dog sled demonstration.

Lay Speakers Needed for Lenten Lunches:

New to being a lay speaker? Or are you a seasoned pro? Either way, Lenten lunches provide the perfect opportunity to practice. We are looking for lay speakers to give a brief 5-10 minute study over lunch. The theme is *Building Foundations*. Speakers needed for every Sunday in February and March. Lunch provided. Contact Jason Masching for more information about leading a message.

Servers and Kitchen Volunteers Needed:

Each event at Alta Mons takes a huge amount of volunteer effort. We are looking for volunteers to help assist in the kitchen and help to serve the meals for the Lenten Lunches. Get to work with Alta Mons staff, meet other volunteers in the district and community and have a great time of fellowship while serving the ministry of Alta Mons. Lunch provided.

Sunday Lenten Lunches:

(February and March) Come and join us for a Lenten study over lunch. Bring family and friends and enjoy great food, fellowship and live bluegrass/gospel music.

The Lenten lunches run every Sunday in February and March, beginning at 1:00 pm and end-

ing at 2:30 pm. This buffet style meal includes soup, salad, main course, dessert and drinks. Groups, families and individuals are welcome. Reservations required in advance. Spaces fill fast.

Paul Bunyan Day (Saturday, March 12) A full day of fellowship and preparation for spring. Bring chainsaws, wood-splitters and be ready to clear trails and haul wood. This is the first of the large group volunteer days of the year. Paul Bunyan day is intended as a preparation of Alta Mons for spring and the upcoming busy season, focused around chopping and stacking wood and clearing trails. Individuals and large groups can come and volunteer time for this event. Lunch provided.

Mission Celebration – Green Initiatives and Creation Care for Churches and Communities: Alta Mons will be one of the host sites for "Mission Celebration". Mission Celebration encourages participants to look beyond their locality and into the world around us. Each site will have professionals in the mission field available to talk and answer questions. The focus of the day at Alta Mons will be on environmental stewardship with practical tasks and workshops centered around this theme. For more information about this event visit www.roanokeumc.org.

COP Golf Tournament

The Community Outreach Program (COP) is sponsoring a Golf Tournament April 16, 2011 at Hanging Rock Golf Club. This event is to raise funds for COP, a mission project in the Roanoke District, that strives to improve the quality of life of children and their families in the inner-city by providing a safe and nurturing environment where children are mentored aca-

demically, spiritually, emotionally and physically. Company and individual sponsors are needed. Individual golfers and teams can register by completing a registration form available at your church, golf club or the District Office. Sponsorship opportunities are available from \$3,000 to \$200 and all sponsors will receive recognition in the UMC District

newsletter. Contributions of items that can be used as prizes or sold at silent auction would be appreciated. Volunteers will be needed to work the tournament. Please help make this tournament successful. 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.

Roanoke District UMW

Lou Talbutt, District President

"Let there be peace on earth, Dear Lord, and let it begin with me". Our UMW program book this year is entitled, *FINDING PEACE*. Happy New Year and may peace be with each of you. The first program in the Program Book is, "*Finding Peace Through Action*." This specific program illustrates new ways we can find personal peace and resolution in times of stress and anxiety. Activities are provided for brainstorming stressful situations and reflecting on helpful scriptures which offer peace from God. As we begin the 2011 New Year, our focus this year will follow the theme of the program book, Peace through Action. The team recommends that all UMW

Units use the official program book for some of their programs. The book is one of our best resources and is under used, misused, or not used at all. Let's get back to our stated purpose and dig into the study of who we are, why we are, and focus on our goals. We are not social clubs, but exist to know God and carry out the work started by our past generations of United Methodist Women.

The District Training event held on January 5 was a success despite the weather. Ice and snow did not hurt the high spirits of the group there and those women who attended the UMW sessions said, they received new ideas and gained much from the discussions.



We are currently sending emails to remind everyone about General Assembly Day on February 3rd, Richmond. We are reminding everyone about the registration deadline on January 31 with hotel reservations due by January 14th for the special rate (804-560-1566).

The Executive Committee will have a planning session on Saturday, January 15th at Central UMC, Salem.

The UMW District Training Event is scheduled for Saturday, February 5th at St. Mark's UMC, Daleville, 9:00 am until noon. The snow date is Saturday, February 12, same place and same time. Please plan to attend.

Happy New Year and Peace!

District Events & News:

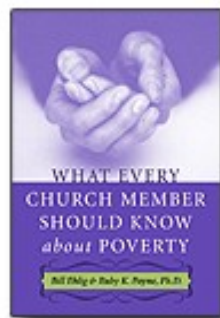
There will be a **Vacation Bible School Showcase at Bonsack UMC** on Sat., Feb. 19, from 10 am-12 noon in Walker Hall Fellowship Hall. The Walker Hall entrance is on the back of the church, so drive around and park up on the hill. Come see a presentation on the 2011 Cokesbury VBS Program and view the other VBS Programs that Cokesbury is selling as well. For those who are directing VBS for the first time, we will have a "How to Do VBS" presentation from 11:00-noon. If you purchase your VBS supplies at the Showcase, you will receive 20% off of your entire order. If you cannot make it to the Showcase and wish to get the 20% off, you can order your supplies directly from Cokesbury between Jan. 24 and Feb. 13. Plus you get \$3.95 shipping. Mention the promo code CE11 for the shipping offer.

The District UM Youth Praise Service will be held February 20th at Greene Memorial UMC at 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Dinner will be provided and the Ferrum Praise Band will lead the worship service. The **UM Youth Council** will meet February 21st at Trinity UMC at 7:00 pm.

In the mood to do a little spring cleaning? Are your books taking over your house? Cave Spring UMC is collecting books, all kinds of books, for a book fair. The book fair will be held April 1-3, 2011. So if you need to clean out your book shelves or have books up in the attic you would like to get rid of, please bring them to Cave Spring UMC. We will accept books from now until March 31st.

Holy Land Pilgrimage, led by Rev. Don Baldwin, September 5-15, 2011. Cost of the trip, \$2995, includes airfare from Roanoke, nice hotels, 8 nights, 2 meals per day, and all admissions. The trip will be led by a specially trained and licensed Israeli tour educator during the entire visit. The itinerary includes Jerusalem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Caesarea, Jordan River, Dead Sea, Masada, Qumran and many other places important to our Christian heritage. For more information, please call (540) 366-4107.

Shalom Zone Grace Ministry



Shalom Zone: Grace Ministry continues its presence and ministry in downtown Roanoke. This is an ongoing ministry to people in Northwest Roanoke. Part of the ministry focuses on issues which include landlord and tenant rights, custody issues and general advice on filling out forms. Our local site group is exploring a Community Garden and some special events for Black History Month. This past December in conjunction with the community and some people who used to work at the Dumas Center, we presented an original short play called "Love's Kitchen". It was presented on two nights (40 at-

tended the first night and 100 the second) just before Christmas and included actors both young and old. In keeping with the theme of "Love's Kitchen", homemade soup and refreshments were provided for all as an extension of the play.

In addition to the ministry in Northwest Roanoke we have resources which may be of use in your church or organization. The ZONE of this ministry is expanding. Don Edwards and Sharon Micheals have been certified as Bridges Out of Poverty trainers. Several district churches have arranged for Bridges Out of Poverty training. These include the District Book Club, Cave Spring UMC, Saint Mark's UMC, Thrasher Memorial UMC and Bonsack UMC. They will focus on the book *What Every Church Should Know About Poverty*. Studying the Bridges material can help sensitize us to the issues surrounding poverty. If people want to reach out to others, it is important to know how our life context impacts our ability to interact with others. This study will

help us understand some of the subtle and not so subtle prejudices we bring to the table as we try to minister. It will also help us to understand the life context people in poverty face.

If you or your church is interested in ways to reach people outside your comfort zone, this program can help and we are ready to be a resource to you. Sharon and Don presented a synopsis of this program at the District Leadership Training on January 8th at Thrasher Memorial UMC and we have people available to preach or present programs at your local UMC.. The basic study is parsed into six components. Also, as part of the District Mission Celebration, people will have the opportunity to participate in a Poverty Simulation experience. It will occur on March 26th at First UMC in Salem. Please consider utilizing these resources in your ministries.

Apportionments Paid for Year 2010

District and Conference Apportionments 100% Paid as of December 31, 2010:

- Andrew Chapel
- Asbury
- Belview
- Blacksburg
- Bethel, New Castle (New Castle Charge)
- Bethel, Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, Shiloh (Eagle Rock Charge)
- Bonsack
- Boones Mill
- Calvary, Halls (Calvary/Halls Charge)
- Calvary, Park (Christiansburg)
- Catawba, McDonald's Mill, Shiloh (Catawba Charge)
- Cave Spring
- Central
- Copper Hill, Havens Chapel, Huffville, Stonewall (Floyd Parish)
- Crockett Springs
- Ebenezer
- Fairview

- Fieldstone
- Fincastle
- First UMC, Mt. Lebanon(Pembroke)
- First UMC Salem
- Goodwin Memorial
- Grace
- Greene Memorial
- Hebron, Mt. Pleasant, Pierce Chapel (Foothills Charge)
- Lafayette
- Lawrence Memorial
- Lithia & Trinity (Buchanan Charge)
- Locust Grove
- Mays Memorial/Parrish Chapel (Mt. View Charge)
- Mt. Elbert UMC
- Mt. Olivet UMC
- Mt. Pleasant (Roanoke)
- Mt. Tabor
- Newport/Mt. Olivet
- Northview
- Prices Fork, Trinity (Prices Fork Charge)
- Raleigh Court

- Rockingham Court
- South Roanoke
- Southview
- St. Marks
- St. Paul (Christiansburg)
- St. Paul (Roanoke)
- Thrasher Memorial
- Trinity (Roanoke)
- Wesley Memorial
- West End
- White Memorial
- Windsor Hills

District Apportionments 100% Paid as of December 31, 2010:

- Woodlawn

Conference Apportionments 100% Paid as of December 31, 2010:

- Huntington Court

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

is the 15th of the month

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