



ROANOKE DISTRICT NEWS



From the District Superintendent

By the numbers . . .

The Roanoke District year – 2007 – by the numbers:

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20,296 members of our churches
 663 new members
 302 new members were received on Profession of Faith
 Net gain of 86 members

6 charges had no change in membership
 31 charges had increases in membership
 19 charges had decreases in membership

Worship attendance is reported as follows:

1 – 50 per Sunday – 15 charges
 51-100 per Sunday – 19 charges
 101 – 200 – 11 charges
 201 – 300 – 6 charges
 301 – 400 – 1 charge
 401 - 500 – 3 charges
 501 – up – 1

District average worship attendance per charge is 125.

The District reached its 100% paying apportionments. However, 5 charges did not pay 100% and we need to pray for their movement towards 100% faithfulness in connectional giving.

So brothers and sisters, we can say thank you God, for what you are doing through us! But we acknowledge that the world needs us and our ministry. Reach others for the cause of Christ. May we live by God's numbers – God's grace is for all!

Peace,
Steve

February 6

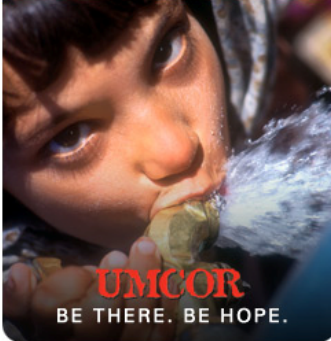
ASH
WEDNESDAY



2008 FEBRUARY

SHARE THE GOODNESS OF LIFE
WITH THOSE WHO HURT.
PLEASE GIVE.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Water. It's something many of us take for granted. It's only as far away as our nearest faucet. But in many other places finding good, fresh water is a daily burden—sometimes dangerous and almost always complicated by lack of rainfall or war- and storm damaged wells.

UMCOR is helping children, women and men to gain better access to water. In Afghanistan thousands of people are returning home after years of living as refugees in other countries. In Sudan children and cattle often drink from the same source, and women walk 10 miles for water. On the Sri Lanka coast, community wells were washed away in the 2004 tsunami.

One essential piece for reconstruction in all these places is water. Afghanistan UMCOR workers have constructed more than 20 wells in the communities where we work. Each provides some 200 people with water to meet their day-to-day needs. In Sudan we're installing water stations in 10 communities over the next four years, assuring that 250,000 people have sources of nearby, fresh water, separate from their animals. In Sri Lanka, where UMCOR has rehabilitated wells in more than five districts, we're told, "Methodist wells have the sweetest water."

One Great Hour of Sharing

Water is hope for these hundreds of thousands of people. Through UMCOR's programs families are rebuilding with new hopes for their futures. This important work would not be possible without One Great Hour of Sharing. The special offering, received every Lenten season, allows UMCOR to keep our promise to send 100 percent of your designated gifts to specific causes.

Be There, Be Hope

Share the goodness of life with those who hurt. When the offering plate comes to you this year please give generously. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing reach out with UMCOR to "Be There, Be Hope" for communities in 81 countries including Afghanistan, Sudan and SiLanka. **Please give generously on March 2! Thank you!!**

ROARING 20's party

Friday, February 1st 7pm–10pm



It's 1923 and your
Youth Group is
Invited to the
Gatsby Mansion for a
grand evening!

Come dressed in your best 1920's wear!

There will be food, dancing, gaming and more!

Sponsored by Roanoke District United
Methodist Youth Ministries

The Gatsby Mansion is located at the
Fishburn Mansion (Mountain View)
located off Memorial Avenue in Roa-
noke



Upcoming Events at Alta Mons

Sunday Buffets: 12:30-2pm
Each Sunday January 20 - March 2

Paul Bunyan Day
February 17th
9am till afternoon.

A full day of fellowship and chopping wood to support the camp. Please bring chain saws, wood splitters, and be ready to haul wood. Lunch is provided.

District UMW Work Day
April 12th

College Prep Weekend: April 18-19
24 hour Christian oriented college preparation weekend. In-
cluding: study skills, finding campus Christian Community,
simple cooking, local college information and more.

Summer Camp 2008
June 15- July 25
Theme:

**Walking with
GIANTS!**

To Register: Contact the Camp office for a brochure
or look online at www.altamons.org

ROANOKE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



- Louise Miller, District President

The Roanoke District United Methodist Women will hold their District Training Day on February 2nd (snow date is the 9th). The place is Windsor Hills UMC found at the corner of Mudlick and Windsor Ave. (For directions please call Louise Miller @ 343-7529). Registration is at 9:00 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Program we are highlighting this year is *The Charter For Racial Justice*. The District UMW Committee on Racial Justice has been hard at work to bring us a good program, one that we can take to our units and recreate. (No boring speaker). There will be many interactive activities and a very moving worship service to conclude that part of the morning. Then we will hear from all our District officers about the responsibilities of each office, giving time for questions. This is being done in response to your queries.

Everyone should know that the United Methodist Women, through the Women's Division, supports 256 projects internationally plus 101 in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. This is a huge responsibility, but we on the Roanoke District are up to the Task!!

Please keep Reading, Praying and Giving. Women, Children and Youth all over the world are counting on us!!



I just want to say thank you to the clergy and laity on the Roanoke District for all of the love and support that you have shown me over the past ten years that I have been your District Lay Leader.

Being the District Lay Leader has been one of the most fulfilling positions that I have ever held in the church. It has opened up my eyes and my world more than I ever dreamed possible. I have learned so much from both clergy and laity during my tenure.

Making a contribution in my honor to the Hinton Rural Life Center was the best thing you could have done. Hinton is near and dear to my heart and I really appreciate your thinking of them.

I especially want to thank the three district superintendents that I have served with and all of the other clergy that have been a part of the district. You have made me feel like one of you.

Warner Bonderman became the new District Lay Leader in January. I have served with Warner in many capacities and he is a real servant of God. He will do a great job for the district. I ask that you give him the same love and support that you have shown me.

Grace & Peace,

Brenda

Congratulations to Elaine Lavinder who has been named the new Executive Director of the United Methodist Home in Roanoke. She has been acting Director for the last several months.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION TRAINING

We often want to help when disasters strike or we want to support Christians in troubled areas of the world. But the ability to help often requires previous preparation. One step is to have trained team leaders who can lead mission teams when needs or opportunities arise.

Leader Training for international and domestic Volunteers in Mission will be at Blacksburg UMC on Saturday, March 29, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., registration begins 8:45 a.m. Registration fee \$10, payable at the door. Morning snacks and lunch provided. CEU units will be provided for those needing CEU certification.

Team leader training is required for all first-time United Methodist mission team leaders, but all interested persons are welcome to attend. Trained team leaders must have participated in a previous trip. **Pre-registration required:** www.vaumc.org » [Ministries](#) » [UMVIM \(UM Volunteers in Mission\)](#) » [Training](#)

All team leaders must have a Team Leader Handbook for the session, order at http://www.umvim.org/VIM_Store.htm, or call (404) 377-7424. No handbooks will be for sale at the session. Versions published prior to September 2006 will not be used.

For more information, contact the Office of Mission at (404) 377-7424 or contact Keith Mottley, Pastor, Manor Memorial UMC, Coordinator UMVIM Virginia Conference at (540) 740-8959 (Office), pastorkm@shentel.net

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Huntington Court UMC is looking for a part-time Youth Director. Resumes may be sent to PO Box 5066, Roanoke, VA 24012 or fax your resume to 540-366-3466. For more information please call 540-366-0066.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

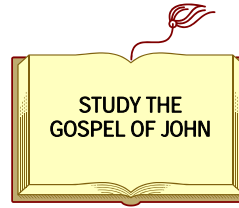
There was an article in the magazine, "Ministry Today" that was entitled "America's Primary Mission Field" by George Barna. The article points out three main reasons that Children's Ministry should be our primary mission field. The first is that "Time is of the Essence". The research confirmed that the moral foundations of the typical person are developed by age 9; that the dominant faith commitments of a person are generally in place by age 13.

The second point is that "Kids Hold the Key to the Expanding Church". Unchurched adults evaluate many aspects of church life when they contemplate connecting with a church, and one of the three most important aspects is how their children will be cared for. Children are also among the most aggressive and effective evangelistic agents in the Christian Community.

The third point is that "Early Lessons Stick". The theological beliefs of young people were virtually identical to the beliefs of every other age group. What you believe when you are young changes little once you reach the teen and adult years.

If you do not have a Children's Ministry at your church, it is time to begin. If you have a Children's Ministry Coordinator, please make sure Susan Wagner gets their name, phone number, and e-mail address. Call Susan at 977-4212 or e-mail her at susan@bonsackumc.org for any help you may need.

The Roanoke District Children's Ministry is sponsoring an exciting event for children of all ages on April 13th at 2:00 p.m. at Bonsack UMC in the Family Life Center. Admission is \$5.00 and the first 400 people to purchase tickets will be assured of a seat. Contact Susan to get your tickets.



Dr. Efird from Duke University will be teaching a Bible study on the Gospel of John Friday evening, Feb. 29, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday morning, March 1, 9:00-12:00 noon at Cave Spring UMC (4505 Hazel

Drive, SW, Roanoke). Dinner of soup, salad, sandwich, dessert, and beverage will be served Friday evening 6:00-7:00 p.m. at a cost of \$6.00 per person. Contact Julia Greer at 989-3673 for more information and to register.

Also on Sunday, March 2, Dr. Efird will be focusing on "The Passion of Jesus, according to John" at Fincastle UMC (136 South Main St, Fincastle) at 9:30 a.m. and then will preach at the 11:00 a.m. service. All are invited to hear him and to "sit at a master teacher's feet" for the day. No registration required for this day.

The DEADLINE for the NEXT ISSUE of the NEWSLETTER is the 15th of the month.

Send articles to fburgess@roanokeumc.org or via fax to (540) 989-0672

Publication of the Roanoke District Office of the Virginia Conference United Methodist Church

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