

January  
2012



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



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**Remember in Your  
Prayers**

**Rev. Eugene (Dick) Jones**, pastor of Grace UMC, as he recovers from a recent heart attack and related complications.

**Rev. Danny Kesler**, Foothills Charge, and his family as they rebuild after losing their home to fire.

The family of

**Rev. William Combs**, who died December 20th. Rev. Combs was a retired minister on the Roanoke District.



## **District Leadership Training Event**

**Saturday, January 7, 2012**

**Greene Memorial United Methodist Church**

**402 Second Street SW, Roanoke, VA**

**9:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m.**

Detailed brochures with registration information are available online at  
**[www.roanokeumc.org](http://www.roanokeumc.org)**

### **CLASS OPPORTUNITIES:**

**The United Methodist Connection: Understanding the Jargon**  
Led by Dr. Stephen Hundley, Roanoke District Superintendent

**Lay Leadership**—led by Brenda Brooks, District Formation Team Leader

**New Ideas for Children's Ministry**—led by Lee Ann Critz and Traci Hall

**Resources for Youth Ministry and The Leadership Lab**  
Led by Tim Craft, District Youth Leader

**What Every Church Should Know About Missions**—Led by UVMIM Team

**Board of Discipleship, How Can We Help You, The Local Church**— Led by Susan Wagner

**Poverty and the Church**—Led by Don Edwards, Esq., Shalom Zone-Grace Ministries

**Care of Creation**—Led by Margaret Riggs

**Camp Alta Mons: Experiencing God through Hospitality, Programs and Facilities**  
Led by Jason Masching, Program Service Director

**Reaching Young Adults**—Led by Rev. Bret-Ashton Gresham, Wesley Foundation

**Contextual Ministry: Putting the Gospel in New Containers**  
Led by Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant, District Director of Church Development

The Roanoke District Leadership Training Event is for both clergy and laity. Our goal is to equip and support those in leadership in the local church. This workshop is for both new leaders and veteran leaders. Please register by January 5, 2012 by phone, fax, email or mail registration form to the district office. For more information contact Debbie Brown at 540-344-6625 extension 113 or **[DebbieB@gmumc.org](mailto:DebbieB@gmumc.org)**.

## District News

### Potato Drop was SWEET



A big thanks to all the people who were able to come out and bag sweet potatoes on December 3rd. We bagged **47,200** lbs. of potatoes! 7000 more than expected! A special thanks goes out to **Southview UMC** for letting us use their parking lot, having your boy scout troop there to help AND having hot beverages for us. You all were so gracious. If any church or individual wanted to help with the potato drop but couldn't, the Society of St. Andrew would appreciate a donation toward the shipping cost of the potatoes. Make your checks to **The Society of St. Andrew** and put *potato drop 12/3/11* in the memo, 3383 Sweet Hollow Rd. Big Island, Va. 24528.

**South Roanoke UMC** is currently seeking to fill two part time position openings:

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** responsible for managing the administrative and secretarial functions, to include church communications and congregational support, coordination of daily church activities, and office management. Requires a professional and caring demeanor, 1-3 years experience, good working knowledge of PC's, Microsoft Office and office equipment. Weekday approx. 30 hours per week.

**BOOKKEEPER** responsible for general support of the church's financial processes including payroll and accounts payable, tax preparation and filing, financial reports and routine accounts maintenance. Requires 1-3 years professional bookkeeping experience with working knowledge of GAAP, general office equipment, computerized accounting systems and software including Microsoft Office. Approximately 10 hours per week.

Send resume with compensation requirements to Penny Haynes, c/o SRUMC, 2330 South Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA 24014, or to pennyhaynes@srumc.com.

Is your church in need of a table tennis table-complete with net and paddles?

One is available for **FREE**. Contact Edward Leonard:

[BEinRoanoke@verizon.net](mailto:BEinRoanoke@verizon.net).

**District Youth Council will meet January, 10 at Cave Spring UMC @ 7:00**



It is an exciting time for Campus Ministry in the Virginia Annual Conference! Last year the Virginia Annual Conference formed a Campus Ministry Implementation Team (CMIT) to implement what another group (the Campus Ministry Discernment Team) determined to be needs for campus ministry. I was fortunate enough to be a part of the CMIT and saw how passionate our Annual Conference is about making Campus Ministry a vital and vibrant part of the United Methodist Church. This team met once a month for a year to establish a vision, redefine our organizational structure, and put together a set of metrics. It was a challenging year, but from this group came an amazing opportunity for growth, realization of effectiveness, and sharing.

Because of our new campus ministry structure and metrics, we can now show our Annual Conference the exciting things that are happening in campus ministry. We are able to identify effective practices in other campus ministries and share with one another how to use those in our own contexts. There are now direct relationships to our District Superintendents and, therefore, our districts and Conference staff are able to see firsthand the vital ministries we have.

The new vision statement for campus ministry is "to invite and equip students to explore, engage, and embody an active faith in God." You will notice the explicit nature of WHO campus ministry is for...the STUDENTS! This was never stated from our Conference in the past, but now we have direction and focus for all that we do in campus ministry; and that is to invite and equip students on their faith journey – wherever that may be.

The new "Metrics of Success/Effectiveness" are opportunities for campus ministries to show not only numbers in attendance and invites (both personal and mass), but a sharing of impacts on others. Now we have the ability to give details of the events and share how those events impacted the lives of others.

The CMIT was intentional in making this process about improving and enhancing the effectiveness of campus ministry not finding ways to break it down. This new mentality will bring about so many opportunities for campus ministry to not only survive, but to flourish! (submitted by: Bret Gresham)

## News from Alta Mons

Alta Mons has 2012 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](http://www.altamons.org). Follow us on Facebook and twitter.



### Recruiting now!

**Looking for a resolution for the new year?  
To blow away the cobwebs and enjoy some winter cheer.  
Look no further than out your front door,  
Check out Alta Mons to see what is in store!**

To join our special Alta Mons volunteer family... Call: (540) 268 2409  
email: [volunteer@altamons.org](mailto:volunteer@altamons.org) [www.altamons.org](http://www.altamons.org)

Thank you once again to all our volunteer community who help to make Alta Mons 'A welcoming place apart, nurturing disciples and transforming lives'.



## 2012 District Volunteers in Mission

Doctors, dentists, nurses and non-medical persons are need to participate in this medical mission trip to Mazatenango, Guatemala on June 9th-17th. Contact Jim Gooding [jjgooding@cox.net](mailto:jjgooding@cox.net) for more information. The Boca Costa Mission website is [www.bocacostamm.org](http://www.bocacostamm.org). Cost of the trip will be approx. \$1800.

## Roanoke District UMW

Lou Talbutt, District President



With the close of 2011 and the beginning of 2012 we must continue to evaluate our work and plan for 2012. I worked for a person once who talked about, "Working on the Work." I must confess that I agree with that concept. For example, one can prepare a wonderful, creative program, but if for some reason the publicity doesn't get done, the program will fail because of lack of attendance. Simply, there is a place for both the creative and practical. I urge all UMW to think hard about both as we plan for the UMW Training Meeting on **February 4<sup>th</sup>, at Cave Spring UMC, 9:00 AM** (Snow Date, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>). The successful annual District UMW Breakfast held at First Salem UMC on November 5<sup>th</sup> was an excellent example of practical teamwork as well as

creative programming. A special THANKS must be extended to the staff and women of First UMC for their hard work and support.

On the National Level, the Women's Division has announced a plan to attract more young women to our membership. I applaud their efforts. Sue Boltz, Conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator (703-768-7499) is calling for recommendations of young women willing to make a 2-year commitment (including Aug. 2-5, 2012) Duke Divinity School. One must be a teen (Age 14-17), one a woman (Age 18-30) and one over the age of 25. Also, there can be one who serves as a chaperon and that person

has no age requirements. None of the women can hold leadership positions beyond their local church. Please encourage appropriate women to consider these opportunities.

Remember our General Assembly Day on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bon Air UMC, Richmond; the UMW District Training Day discussed in the first paragraph on February 4<sup>th</sup> and our Newsette Deadline on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Peace and Love to all of you for 2012.

## Conference News

### United Methodist Day

**United Methodist Day at the Virginia General Assembly** will be held on **Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012**, which will also be the **20th Anniversary** of this event. In addition, this will be Bishop Kammerer's last time to participate as our residing bishop. The Bishop will be recognized for her participation and support.

### 2012 Lay Servants Academy

All laity are invited to the Lay Servants Academy to be held at the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center on **February 24-26, 2012**. The Academy will include the 35th Annual Conference Lay Speakers Training; however, you do not need to be on track to become a Local Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Speaker to attend. Every chairperson, committee member, teacher, or congregational leader is encouraged to take the introductory Lay Speaking course and overview of United Methodism. The information and skills you will be introduced to will serve you well within your local congregations. A variety of 10-hour courses will be offered for Advanced Lay Speaking. New in 2012 will be the offering of introductory 2-hour classes. The brochure for the Academy is available on the Conference website ([www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)).

### Archives seek local church histories

Virginia Conference archivist Stephanie Davis is collecting written church histories for the Virginia United Methodist Archives. If you have a written church history, or would like information as to how to compile one, e-mail her at: [stephaniedavis@vaumc.org](mailto:stephaniedavis@vaumc.org).

### February 5, 2012 is Disability Awareness Sunday

Disability Awareness packets are available on the Virginia Conference website: [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)

## From Our Director Of Church Development

Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant



### On Being "Othered"...

Not too long ago, I introduced the term "othered" to a team of folks working together on a project. Othered is setting people aside because they appear to be different. While the term was new to every person at the table, the concept was certainly not. Each member was invited to share experiences of times in their lives when they were othered or excluded. The conversation was intense for everyone in the group and emotional for several group members. Everyone was able to think of times in their lives when they were left out or excluded from something important to them. Painfully, each person at the table could think of times when they had "othered" someone, perhaps *un-intentionally*, but sometimes we confessed, we had left others out on purpose. Everyone in the group agreed. It hurts really badly to be othered.

Sometimes we intentionally exclude others and other times we intentionally just don't include them. We need to be aware of both these times when people are excluded.

Jesus knew what it felt like to be "othered." Bruce Chilton writes in *Rabbi Jesus*, even though he was deeply loved by Mary and Joseph, Jesus was known as a "mamzer, an Israelite of suspect paternity." Because no one could prove who his father was Jesus was left out of many synagogue functions. To his "church" he was considered unacceptable and was excluded. Jesus knew how badly it felt to be left out. This is why he went out of his way to seek out a woman and risk a conversation with her. This is why he gave priority to children when he took them on his knee. This is why he called out to Zacchaeus.

The challenge for all of us is to become aware of the times when we "other" persons around us and make every effort to intentionally include all.

# Apportionments Paid for Year 2011

## District Apportionments 100% PAID

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Chapel</li> <li>• Asbury</li> <li>• Belview</li> <li>• Bethel, Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, Shiloh (Eagle Rock Charge)</li> <li>• Bethel, New Castle (New Castle Charge)</li> <li>• Blacksburg</li> <li>• Boones Mill</li> <li>• Calvary-Christiansburg</li> <li>• Calvary-Salem</li> <li>• Catawba, McDonald's Mill, Shiloh (Catawba Charge)</li> <li>• Central</li> <li>• Crockett Springs</li> <li>• Ebenezer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fincastle</li> <li>• Goodwin Memorial</li> <li>• Grace</li> <li>• Haven's Chapel, Huffville, Stonewall (Floyd Parish)</li> <li>• Huntington Court</li> <li>• Lafayette</li> <li>• Lawrence Memorial</li> <li>• Lithia, Trinity (Buchanan Charge)</li> <li>• Locust Grove</li> <li>• Mount Elbert</li> <li>• Mount Lebanon, Pembroke (Pembroke Charge)</li> <li>• Mount Pleasant-Roanoke</li> <li>• Mount Tabor</li> <li>• Mount Pleasant (Foothills Charge)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prices Fork, Trinity (Prices Fork Charge)</li> <li>• Raleigh Court</li> <li>• Rockingham Court</li> <li>• South Roanoke</li> <li>• Southview</li> <li>• Thrasher Memorial</li> <li>• Three Oaks Fellowship</li> <li>• Trinity-Roanoke</li> <li>• Wesley Memorial</li> <li>• White Memorial</li> <li>• Windsor Hills</li> <li>• Woodlawn</li> </ul> |
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## Conference Apportionments 100% PAID

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Chapel</li> <li>• Asbury</li> <li>• Calvary-Christiansburg</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catawba, McDonalds Mill, Shiloh (Catawba Charge)</li> <li>• Ebenezer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount Tabor</li> <li>• New Castle (New Castle Charge)</li> <li>• Mount Lebanon (Pembroke Charge)</li> </ul> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Remember the deadline for submitting the ***Vital Congregations*** is now **January 31, 2012**. Please have this Charge Conference Form 3 (found on the Conference website at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)) faxed, emailed or mailed to the district office by the deadline.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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