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From our District Superintendent

Dear Church Leaders,
 “We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessings . . .” – the words go through my head these days. This is what comes to me after we have annual conference every year, and especially when we have just finished conference here in Roanoke. We gathered to attend the business of the annual conference to organize the best way we know how so that we might go and do things better to advance our part of the kingdom of God.

We gathered and asked the blessings of the Lord and I simply hope that we are the better for it. I pray that we are better disciples. I pray that having been together makes us more connected and feeling like we have affirmed the best in us. May it be that when we “go” as the scriptures tell us from annual conference, that we will not forget what we did together to propel us out into ministry. May god bless and keep you as you “go” as a connected

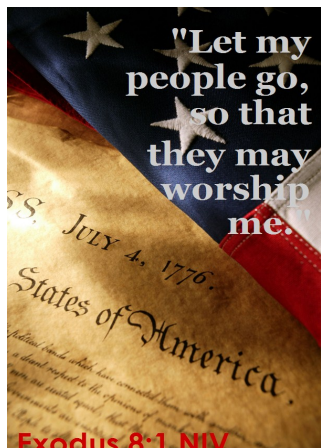
people. I like being connected to you!
 Steve Hundley



And a word of thanks to all of you who shared prayer for me in regards to my recent health concerns. I am “back at it” now and I am humbled by your care and concerns for me. Thanks.

Remember in Your Prayers:

- The family of **Rev. Leighton Ernest Harrell, Jr.**, who died June 14th. Rev. Harrell was a retired minister on the Roanoke District.
- Please remember **Dr. Stephen Hundley**, Roanoke District’s Superintendent, as he recovers from a recent hospitalization.
- Please remember **Rev. Steve Burgess**, retired clergy on the Roanoke District, as he undergoes surgery.



The Virginia Conference School of Christian Mission will be held at the Virginia United

Methodist Assembly Center on July 22-24 & 25-28, 2011. The studies will be: *Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness, and Reconciliation*; *Geographic Study: Haiti: Challenges and Hopes*; *Joy to the World: Mission & Evangelism*; *Children’s Study: Krik, Krak: The Study of Haiti*; and *Youth Study:*

Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Registration fee is due by July 10th. For more information contact JoAnn Liskey at 540-434-2997 or go to the conference website at www.vaumc.org to see the brochure. There is no online registration.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Rev. Elwood Carwile, Rev. William Finley, and Rev. David R. Tanner, who retired at Annual Conference. They are all from the Roanoke District.
- Rev. Jennifer Dickison Coffey, who is from the Roanoke District, was commissioned as a Provisional Member of the Conference. Her parents are Nancy (former Roanoke District Missions Chair) and Dennis Dickison.

District Apportionments PAID in full for 2011:

- Mt. Tabor UMC
- Mt. Elbert UMC
- Calvary UMC - Christiansburg
- Catawba UMC - Catawba
- Trinity UMC - Roanoke
- Lawrence Memorial UMC

Conference Apportionments PAID in full for 2011:

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



POTATO DROP: 'Head Spud' Marian Kelly is interviewed by local television during Friday's Society of St. Andrew 'Potato Drop.' More than 220 people participated, bagging 39,500 pounds of sweet potatoes, which went out to 12 feeding agencies in Virginia and West Virginia. The potatoes will provide 118,000 servings of food for hungry people.

Photo by Mike Hickox, SoSA Christiansburg

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.

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.

Job Postings at Alta Mons:

Guest Service Coordinator and Facility Service Coordinator: For a complete job description and/or to apply, please contact J. Benjamin Snapp at director@altamons.org. Cover letter, resume and three professional references are required. You may also go to www.altamons.org for a full job descriptions and print out an application.

Nearly 53,000 Kits for UMCOR!

Virginia Conference churches brought 52,870 disaster relief kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR): 27,870 health kits, 15,192 school kits, 5,243 birthing kits, 3,723 layette kits, 648 sewing kits, 62 bedding packs, and 854 cleaning buckets.

Annual Conference Offering

To date, \$167,345 has been collected for the Annual Conference offering which will support leadership development in the UMC in Mozambique, Shade and Fresh Water programs in Brazil, Agape Christian Children's Community Center on the Eastern Shore, and Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries in Roanoke. Contributions may still be sent to the Conference Treasurer's office, PO Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058.



The children visiting from Brazil were granted time to present a thank you banner for their visit to the Virginia Annual Conference.

Roanoke District UMW

Lou Talbutt, District President

There is much excitement in the air as we prepare for the Annual Conference in Roanoke and the School of Christian Mission. It makes it hard to do an article prior to these major events. In reviewing my topics for this issue I came across the February 2011 RESPONSE magazine which focused on the "Arts and Ministry". Have you ever asked yourself what would happen if we had no art, music, singing, or movement in church? What would worship be like? Have you ever thought about how dull our lives would be? In our early lives we drew pictures in caves and danced around fires chanting and making music with crude instruments---all gifts and talents from God. In fact, there is something in us which must come out in the form of some type of expression.

Poetry, dance, drama, crafts, and other musical expressions allow us to share our faith, love, and joy. In the Methodist Church we often talk about singing our faith and leading others to call us the "Singing Methodist." Let us give thanks for our talents and use our gifts for the glory of God.

I have always had a love of drama, plays, and monologues. I have often spoken at retirement parties for close friends and performed for small groups in my free time.

Recently I have been thinking about the homeless, especially women and how hard it must be on the streets. In fact, I think God has put it on my heart to develop a drama about a homeless woman. Because the homeless often have mental health issues I

believe I must do something to raise awareness of that issue too.

Thus, I am starting a creative journey.

I have the ideas and am planning to write and perform a dramatic presentation on a homeless woman who by all accounts is a Christian. She will display some humor and even talk about her religious experiences on the street. I am excited about the project and will share more when it is completed. Like everything else the idea started as just a thought and now has grown in my mind over the past year until it has become clear. It is a ministry and testimony which I must do.

My thought for this month is, "Keep your creative juices flowing and see what happens?"



District Events & News:

The next **District Book Club** will be in September and we will read *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez. I found the book and ordered it off of Amazon for \$4.49. Marianne Bird will lead the discussion and we have plans to see parts of the movie. We will meet at the Roanoke UM Home. Questions? Call Becky Hundley at 904-2960.

Mount Pleasant UMC (3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd., Roanoke) is hosting a beautiful harp concert with a reception following on Saturday, July 23, at 4:00 p.m. Come hear Miss Connor Mae Kelly, a gifted harpist from North Carolina, who is 11 years old. She has played several times at MPUMC and now is offering a recital for the community. She really does play like an angel!

Roanoke District Conference Delegation Elected:

SEJ Conference Elected Clergy:

- Stephen C. Hundley
- Kristin Marie Holbrook

General Conf. Elected Laity:

- Nathaniel L. Bishop
- Carol A. Gaston

SEJ Conf. Elected Laity:

- Jacob Stephen Paysour

Clergy Alternates:

- Leigh Anne Taylor

Laity Alternates:

- Louise Landis

Welcoming Luncheon for New Pastors will be held Thursday, July 7th, at 12:30 pm at the Natural Bridge Hotel. We are very thankful to the Oakey family for hosting this special time for over forty years for our clergy families!

Conn organ for sale: suitable for a small church, theaterette style, walnut finish, 115 volts/60 cycles/260 watts/6 amps, asking price is \$350. If interested, please call Margaret Martin at 540-563-0254 or email her at mamartin45@aol.com.

Helping Hands: Children's Mission Event

Helping Hands: A Virginia Conference Children's Mission Event - Four dates and locations during the summer: **July 7-8, Main Street UMC**, Waynesboro area; **July 21-22, Woodlake UMC**, Richmond area; **July 25-26, Williamsburg UMC**, Williamsburg area; **July 29-30, The Stand UMC**, Petersburg area.

This event offers rising 4th -

6th-graders a hands-on opportunity to do mission work as kids from all over the conference join together as one "United" Methodist church making a difference in the community. Woodlake will offer an optional early start time to include one additional mission opportunity. Come and learn about mission opportunities and the im-

portance of being a caring Christian. The cost is \$36 per person; this will include a T-shirt, meals and snacks, and overnight stay. Register online at www.vaumc.org, under "Events." Questions regarding the event should be directed to Beth Christian at bchristian@woodlakeumc.org or call (804) 739-4535, ext. 28.

College student data to be entered by July 15: In order for campus ministers and chaplains to make connections with students who are attending each institution, it is essential to obtain updated information each year. Collegiate data is collected by the office of Higher Education Ministries and passed on to each campus minister or chaplain. Last year the process was simplified through online reporting. At the same time, the type of information being gathered was enhanced. The process is now completely paper-free. In addition, anyone can complete the data entry - pastors, youth directors, volunteer youth workers, parents, students, etc. Go to <https://www.vaumc.org/SSLPage.aspx?pid=1117> to enter the site. Submit information online by July 15 so campus ministers and chaplains have time to contact students before their arrival.

Welcome, New Clergy

CHURCH/CHARGE	NEW PASTOR	COMES FROM	CURRENT PASTOR	GOES TO
Asbury	George M. Warner	Horntown Eastern Shore District	Nathaniel E. Spencer	
Blacksburg - Associate	Christina R. McLain	Mt. Moriah, Charlottesville District	Sung II Yoo	Emmaus @ Stratford Hills Richmond District
Ebenezer	John C. Preer	Retired South Carolina Conf.	Lowell P. Stovall	Retired Roanoke District
Fincastle	Sandra A. McMillen	Nokesville - Alexandria District	Douglas B. Paysour	Calvary: Stuarts Draft Staunton District
Hall's	Bryan D. Oldham	Extension Minister Roanoke District	Timothy W. Gearheart	Calvary Roanoke District
Northview	Joseph H. Klotz, Jr.	Toms Brook Winchester District	J. Barton Weakley	Main Street: Bedford Lynchburg District
Raleigh Court	Milton E. Marks	Community Norfolk District	James D. Thomas	Sydenstricker Alexandria District
Saint Paul, Roanoke	Carroll C. Carter	Chesapeake Avenue Norfolk District	Alton Washington	Retired Ashland District
Thrasher Memorial	Walter B. Failes, Jr.	Calvary Staunton District	Lynne Alley-Grant	Director of Church Dev. Roanoke District
West End	Jan Nicholson Hill	Pittsboro NC Conference	David R. Tanner	Retiring Roanoke District

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

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