

March

2011



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



Inside this issue:

Appointment Changes	1
District Superintendent	1
Mission Celebrations	1
District Events	2
Prayer Requests	2
Alta Mons	2
COP Golf Tournament	2
UM Women	3
District Youth Retreat	3
District Events & News	3
Dr. Efirid Returns	4
UM Volunteers in Mission	4

From our District Superintendent

Dear church leaders,
What if we marched in March? Really. I mean we decided that we were going to take our faith to another place of commitment and outward effectiveness. March right in to worship and sit up front so you can really hear the choir and the preacher! March right up to someone you know is hurting and tell

her you are praying for her! March up to someone who is culturally different from you and say "I see you"! March right into church and give more offering when the plate is passed to help your church be more engaged in ministry! March right in to your house one evening and say "thank you God for I am blessed today and every day." March into your most often

shopping spot and smile at everyone you see. March right up to your district superintendent and well maybe that is going too far! Marching in March – I like that! Would you join me? Lenten peace,
Steve



Roanoke District Mission Celebration

Appointment Changes:

Bishop Kammerer has made the following changes in Appointments on the Roanoke District effective February 1, 2011.

- **Lawrence Memorial** - Rev. Bill Jester has re-retired. Rev. Terry Ross will serve there.
- **Crockett Springs** – Rev. Warren Carswell will serve there.
- **Three Oaks** - Rev. Tina Cox will serve there
- **Wesley Memorial** - Rev. Gustavo Segovia will serve there and now part-time with Hispanos Unidos

All United Methodists on the Roanoke District are invited to participate in the Roanoke District Mission Celebration scheduled for March 25-27, 2011. The celebration will begin with a kick-off dinner on Friday evening, March 25th, at 6:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Valley View. The evening will be filled with over 60 Mission Interpreters, music guests, old and new friends. The key note speaker is Rev. Pat Watkins (Church & Community Worker, Director of Caretakers of God's Creation for Va. Annual Conference).

The Roanoke District Youth will be celebrating with a spring retreat at Eagle Eyrie. The weekend will be spent celebrating missions, worshipping, playing amazing games and some hands on mission work! Samantha Lewis, a student at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, will be the key-note speaker. Saturday will be filled with many activities:

- Poverty Simulation at First UMC in Salem at 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

- UMCOR Kit packing at Blacksburg UMC and Bonsack UMC beginning at 2:00 pm
- Camp Alta Mons - Green Initiatives and Creation Care at 10 am - 4 pm
- Community Outreach Program - U Feed Others - Trinity UMC at 2:00 pm

Sunday mission interpreters will be speaking in the churches of the Roanoke District.

Plan now to be part of this exciting weekend!

The District Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 29, at 3:00 pm at the Roanoke UM Home. The book is *A Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri Nouwen.

News from Camp Alta Mons

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.

The Community Outreach Program (COP) is compiling a cookbook as a fundraiser and they would like to get recipes from all the churches on the district. Please email your recipes to Nancy Clemons at NANCLEM3@aol.com or for more information please call her at 774-3702. All proceeds will help pay for programs for the COP children.

Help Your Church Be Ready...The VA United Methodist Credit Union has an **unsecured line of credit** that your church can use for any project or emergency:

~ Line of credit up to \$50,000

~ No fee to apply (credit restrictions apply)

Contact Mike Haydon at 866-657-0004 or email. mhaydon@vumcu.org. Membership at VUMCU is open to all churches, clergy, church members, organizations and agencies within the VA Conference.

Remember in Your Prayers:

Our sympathy is extended to Nancy Sasser on the death of her father, **Harry H. Taylor**, on January 29th. Nancy recently served as President of the Roanoke District UMW.

Be in prayer for **Teresa Williams**, wife of Rev. Herb Williams, pastor of White Memorial UMC, who is currently hospitalized.

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.

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:

(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 March, beginning at 1:00 pm and ending 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: (Saturday, March 26 10:00

am - 4:00 pm) Alta Mons will be one of the host sites for "Mission Celebration". The focus at Alta Mons will be on environmental stewardship with practical information and discussions on sustainable building, foods, fair-trade products and green Christian living, vendors and displays. All ages welcome.

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. Lunch is followed by talks and workshops centered on the environmental stewardship theme, Christian and spiritual living. This event is suitable for all age groups.



Charity Golf Tournament
Hanging Rock Golf Club
April 16, 2011

All monies go to
Community Outreach Program



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.

Event Format: Captains choice, free warm-up balls, individual and team prizes, \$25 mulligan package, 1 mulligan, 1 string, 1 red tee, opportunity drawing, and awards program.

Roanoke District UMW

Lou Talbutt, District President

I received the following message in an email recently and would like to share it with you. A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing your eye sight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision". As UMW our vision is to focus on missions, fellowship with each other, spiritual growth, maintain faith, hope, and love in action. What a beautiful statement. Is it hard to do? It is for me. I am far from perfect, but I love God and care about the UMW in the Roanoke District. Together, we can move the organization forward. My main concern for our organization now is the lack of young women joining UMW in our District and around the world.

What can you do? What can I do? Can we have a membership drive? Let's focus, pray, and think young women. Just maybe, we can make a difference. Otherwise, I am worried about where we will be 50 years from now. Think and pray. More to come!

Our District has a new Program Resources and Reading Chair, Katy Collins, a retired librarian. I want to take this opportunity to introduce her and encourage reading among our UMW membership. The Reading Program encourages members to gain knowledge and think critically about a wide range of topics and themes. The Reading Program requires reading a minimum of four books between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011.



There are five categories of books: education for mission, nurturing for community, social action, spiritual growth, and leadership development. Plan one requires one to read four books from four different categories plus read *Response* and *New World Outlook* magazines. The other three plans require reading ten, fifteen and twenty books respectively. Katy will keep us informed about the reading resources and how we can purchase materials. Keep reading! Remember knowledge is power and we learn and grow in knowledge through reading.

Until next time, I will leave you with another thought from an email I received, "Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace".

District Events & News:

Fincastle UMC will host ecumenical community services at 12:05 each Wednesday beginning March 16 as a Lenten discipline for the community. These brief services will include music, prayer, and preaching led by several pastors from the Botetourt/Roanoke area. A luncheon will follow, with donations welcome but not required.

The District Youth Council will meet March 21 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 bookshelves 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.

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.

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.

District Apportionments PAID in full for 2011:

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

Youth Spring Retreat



The Roanoke District United Methodist Youth will have their spring retreat the weekend of March 25-27 at Eagle Eyrie. This is a huge weekend for United Methodist across the Roanoke District. Over 60 missionaries will ascend upon the district and will enrich us with tales of mission work across the globe. There will be celebration dinners, special events, hands on mission opportunities and time to interact with someone who has devoted their life to mission work.

The weekend will be spent celebrating missions, worshipping, playing amazing games and some hands on

mission work!

Jacob's Road will lead the music and Samantha Lewis will be the keynote speaker. Sam is a student at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She is on the elder ordination track in the Alabama-West Florida conference of the UMC.

The cost for the weekend is \$85 per person. This cost covers lodging, Saturday's breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday breakfast.

The deadline for churches to register is Friday, March 11th. If a count of 20 is given and your number decreases - you will be charged for 20. Please provide the number of youth and adults by gender. Churches need to provide their own chaperones and their own medical forms. Each church is responsible for their youth group. Please

provide this information to Tim Craft via email at: craftytim@gmail.com or via phone at 819-9386.

The weekend begins Friday night. Registration is from 6-7 pm. Activities begin at 7:30. The weekend will conclude Sunday morning about 10 am. There will be time allotted for free time and church time. There will be a snack shop open during those times.

Hopefully we will have a mission project on Saturday afternoon to assemble birthing kits for conference. If your church plans to come on the retreat, please contact us early so we can assign your church item(s) to bring to make the kits with. To make this project a success will require that all churches bring supplies and or money.

Dr. Efirid Returns

March 18-19, 2011, Dr. Mickey Efirid 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.

On March 20, Dr. Efirid will return to

Fincastle UMC, with an Extended Teaching Time from 9:30 - 10:40 a.m. in the Family Life Center, preceded by a complimentary breakfast at 8:30 a.m. He will be teaching on *Jesus as the Fulfillment*, focusing on various texts within the Hebrew scriptures cited in the gospels. Dr. Efirid will also be the preacher for the day at the 11 a.m. service.



The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Team Leader Training is changing its registration process. The cost will be \$40 to be paid when you register. The fee covers the cost of the handbook, meal, refreshments, and handouts. Handbooks will be at the training sessions for those who have preregistered. Registering for the team

leader training has not changed. Go to the Virginia Conference website at www.vaumc.org/umvimtraining and follow the directions. There you will find a list of trainings available. Click on the location to register and prepay. Trainings currently available include:

- March 12, 2011 - Redwood UMC, 3001 Old Franklin Turnpike, Rocky Mount, VA
- May 14, 2011 - Floris UMC, 13000 Frying Pan Rd., Herndon, VA
- November 19, 2011 - Beulah UMC, 6930 Hopkins Rd., Richmond, VA

More training will be scheduled at a later date. For questions contact the VA Conference UMVIM Coordinator, Rev. Keith A. Mottley at umvim@vaumc.org.

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