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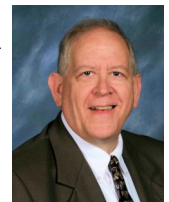
“Being Christ to Others: Snapshots of the Kingdom” will be the theme when 2011 Annual Conference convenes June 15-19 at the Roanoke Civic Center. The focus of the gathering will be on mission..... as well as electing delegates to 2012 General and Jurisdictional conferences.

From our District Superintendent

Dear Leaders,
Easter people—that’s who we are! Anything less and we are not being faithful to the claim God has on us and the claim we make on God!
I am always interested in the people who love to sing *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

and then those who would rather sing *Up From the Grave, He Arose*. Either way, we must have it in us, and in those whom we lead, that we are Easter people who share in the excitement over a woman who finds a tomb empty and invites us to come and see!

Thanks be to God for making us an Easter people!
Easter blessings,
Steve Hundley



Remember in Your Prayers:

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Mrs. Kathleen H. Weakley**, mother of the Rev. Barton Weakley, who died on March 29, 2011. Rev. Weakley is pastor of Northview UMC.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Mrs. Lynda Flatford**, mother of Mrs. Joan Close and mother-in-law of the Rev. George H. Close, Jr., who died on March 30, 2011. Rev. Close is a retired clergy on the Roanoke District.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Mrs. Mary Parker Arthur**, widow of Rev. C. Ralph Arthur, who died on April 11, 2011. Rev. Arthur was president of Ferrum College from 1954 -1970.

Please remember the **Rev. Louis Strickler** who is recovering from back surgery. Rev. Strickler is pastor of Woodlawn UMC.

Please remember the **Rev. Ben Chidester** who is hospitalized in a local hospital. Rev. Chidester is a retired clergy on the Roanoke District.

Summer Projects for Youth....Summer Interns Needed

Project SPY is looking for passionate, ministry-minded summer interns to help change lives in the New River Valley! Project SPY is a mission opportunity for middle and high school youth making homes safer, warmer, and drier, for families in need throughout the NRV. Interns will be employed for 10 weeks and will serve all aspects of the SPY program. Specific staff internship positions available include worship, food service & community garden, and construction. Compensation: \$3,000 plus room and board. For more information, please contact: Michael Tipton, Executive Director, Project SPY at 540-260-3402 or michaeltipton@gmail.com



The Red Bird Mission's Appalachian Craft Fair will be held June 4 & 5, at Greene Memorial UMC at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. The Red Bird Mission, located in the southeastern Kentucky mountains, is an Agency of Red Bird Missionary Conference related to the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Red Bird Mission has a school, medical center, community outreach, community housing improvement, and economic opportunities. By providing a market for local artisans, the craft program is a vital part of economic development. This source of income is important in an area of 50% unemployment. There will be unique crafts such as: woven rugs and mats, cornshuck flowers, wood kitchen items, books, jewelry, baskets, pottery, candles, ornaments, wood toys, jellies/jams and an assortment of nativity sets. You can purchase items to give as gifts or to use for yourself. For more information call Debbie Brown at 344-6225.

The Jubilee Assistance Fund (JAF) is a loan program where a local church establishes an account at the VA UM Credit Union to provide collateralized small, short term loans for individuals who would not qualify for loans otherwise. To qualify for JAF, the borrower agrees to receive financial counseling, loan monitoring and payroll deduction. The program is a way to provide your church members short term help during a financial crisis and financial management tools to assist them with long term financial stability.

For information on partnering with VUMCU to establish a fund at your church, call 866-657-0004 or email: creditunion@vumcu.org.

News from Camp Alta Mons

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.

Memorial Day Weekend

(Sat., May 28-Sun., May 29) During Memorial Day Weekend, families, groups and individuals are welcome to stay at Alta Mons for a reduction in the regular rates. Saturday brings a full day of free events such as hiking, swimming, wagon rides, fishing and more program activities. Meals are offered for reduced rates on Saturday, including a cook-out lunch. The day ends around the campfire with songs, stories and S'mores!

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, Nurses, C.I.T's (counselors in training) 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. Consider volunteering or applying for a position to serve this ministry this summer.

Summer Camp 2011

"Extreme Home Makeover" (July 3-8, July 10-15, July 17-22, July 24-29) Alta Mons offers a summer camp program focused on small group Christian adventure. Camp Alta Mons blends tra-

ditional 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. Sign up online or call us for a registration form at 540-268-2409.

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.

Annual Conference Offering

Bishop Charlene Kammerer has announced that the 2011 Annual Conference Offering goal is \$200,000 and will benefit four mission projects:

- **Mozambique:** \$50,000—leadership development training for laity and clergy in the United Methodist Church in Mozambique and funding for the Living Well Society in its ministry of drilling new wells for drinking water;
- **Brazil:** \$50,000—minister to the spiritual, physical, educational, social and emotional needs of at-risk children through the Shade and Fresh Water program and the John Wesley Medical Boat, both sponsored by the Brazil Methodist Church;
- **Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Eastern Shore:** \$50,000—help with the center's ministry in this small rural ethnic minority community of Horntown as it strives to provide a healthy nurturing environment for at-risk children; and
- **Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries, Roanoke:** \$50,000—minister to the disenfranchised of downtown Roanoke with an emphasis on the recovering community, immigrant community and marginalized people.

More information about Annual Conference and this offering is available at



Roanoke District UMW

Lou Talbutt, District President



The reading program promoted by UMW introduces women to new ideas, impacts our understanding of Christian responsibilities, and helps us through our spiritual journeys. Recently I read one of the books classified in the category of Spiritual Development. I highly recommend the book, *Living with Purpose in a Worn-Out Body* by Missy Buchanan. The book is composed of Bible verses and devotions. It is easy to read, has large print, and uses friendly and “nonacademic” language. The book is full of meditations and helps us have faith and hope during difficult times.

The content includes meditations on “Clutter”, “Aging Well”, “Medicine Bottles” and even one on having a “Pity Party”. All are designed to help us get through the winter stage of our lives. My favorite topic

is called, “Sensible shoes”. A small section from the meditation might tempt you to read the book:

I have several pairs of shoes on the bottom of my closet. All are sensible in an unfashionable kind of way.....

I keep my favorite pair nestled under the edge of my bed within easy reach.....

Today when I put on my sensible shoes, I will say a prayer for children around the world who have none. When I stroke my swollen ankles, I will say a word of thanks that I can still walk.....

On this day, let these sensible shoes walk close to you, God (p. 73).

By all means become a UMW reader. Should you have any questions, contact our Coordinator of Program Resources, Katy Collins (540-382-5057) or katy4books@verizon.net.

Please note that the annual UMW Breakfast at Virginia Annual Conference is

planned for Saturday, June 18, at the Airport Holiday Inn, Roanoke at 6:45 am. Tickets are \$14 and are now on sale by all UMW District Presidents. UMW, friends of UMW and delegates are encouraged to purchase tickets. Also mark your calendars for Ferrum College Day on Saturday, June 4, beginning with opening worship in Vaughn Chapel at 9:45 am with coffee available at 9:00 am. Box lunches will be served in Franklin Hall and we will see a lively musical play, *Radio Gals*, by Mike Craver and Mark Hardwick. Cost is only \$15 for the day. Checks should be made payable to Ferrum College and mailed to Ferrum College UMW Day, 622 Ferrum Mountain Road, Ferrum, VA 24088. The deadline for reservations and refunds is May 26th.

A special thanks to all of you for your support and kindness. I look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming events.

District Events & News:

Bonsack UMC is seeking an Office Administrator. This person reports to the Lead Pastor and provides office support that includes scheduling, record keeping, and communications for effective and faithful operations of the church in providing information regarding resources to staff and membership so that they can perform the ministries to which they have been called. Interested candidates are to submit their resumes with salary history to the following email address: sprc@bonsackumc.org. For more information, please go to the district website: www.roanokeumc.org.

The Roanoke District Youth Council will meet May 16th at Trinity UMC at 7:00 pm.

The Board of Directors for Blackstone: The VA United Methodist Assembly Center announces an extraordinary opportunity for the VA Conference. On Saturday, June 11, 2011 special guest and keynote speaker **Governor Robert E. McDonnell** will deliver an inaugural Founders Day address entitled *Faith of Our Founding Fathers*. Governor McDonnell’s address will be preceded by a colonial style dinner in Blackstone’s dining room and followed by a lively debate between renowned PBS interpreters for President George Washington and Governor Patrick Henry. In addition, area youth will salute the *Faith of Our Founding Fathers* in song. For guests wishing to spend the night, following a hearty Southern breakfast, Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes will deliver the Sunday morning address on July 12. For event information or concerns, please call 424-292-5308 or email: jenniferwall@vaumc.org.

The District Office has a Leader Manual and DVDs of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Bishop Robert Schnase available for use by district churches.

District Apportionments PAID in full for 2011:

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



Christiansburg Men Meet

On April 5th, United Methodist Men from five churches in the Christiansburg area met at St. Paul’s UMC to hear about Project SPY (Summer Project Youth). Project SPY is a one week summer missions adventure for senior and junior high youth. Mr. Michael Tipton, Director of Project SPY, shared about the program and invited the participation of the men’s groups of all the area churches in whatever fashion possible.

Over the last seven years, Project SPY has served 175 families in our area making their homes warmer, safer, and drier. Over 1900 young

people from all over the VA Annual Conference and beyond have given their hands and hearts in mission service. \$425,000 has been reinvested in the New River Valley through Project SPY.

The SPY program takes place over seven weeks of the summer, starting June 18 this year and going through Aug. 5th. Each week will bring youth groups of various sizes ready and willing to do important outreach projects. The challenge today is to generate enough projects to engage the groups all through the summer. Michael invited the men to be aware of the needs in the community and

communicate to SPY any projects (no matter how small) that could be beneficial to people in need.

Michael said SPY is regularly in need of particular tools and would welcome participation and donations any time. They are also open to people who have a particular “license” to work such as electricians, plumbers and carpenters who might be willing to share their expertise. Anyone interested should contact Michael Tipton at 540-260-3402 or by email at fieldstoneumc@gmail.com.

Roanoke District Mission Celebration a Success!

A **BIG** thank you goes out to the Roanoke District United Methodist Churches that participated in our District Mission Celebration. We have so many wonderful United Methodists that were willing to open their homes, drive or feed our mission interpreters.

Thanks to the many mission minded hands that prepared the Mission Celebration and made it a success! Our committee definitely gave us a "Big Woop" Banquet on Friday night and continued to shine as the weekend events unfolded.

The Kick-off banquet on Friday night was attended by 350 United Methodists celebrating mission and giving over \$1500 in a love offering to UMCOR's One Great Hour of Sharing. Our extremely talented Wesley Singers from VA Tech directed by Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor made us proud of our campus ministries that we support through our

apportionments. Rev. Pat Watkins spoke on Green Initiatives.

We also packed over 860 birthing kits at Blacksburg UMC and Bonsack UMC. Our district youth had a great experience at their mission oriented Spring Retreat. Over 60 United Methodists found the Poverty Simulation, from our Bridges out of Poverty ministry, very enlightening on the problems our disenfranchised face on a daily basis. Our Community Outreach Program ministry packed over 200 U Feed Others weekend food bags for the children to have food to eat on the weekend and over 50 toiletries bags for their Camp Alta Mons summer camp experience. We met with Rev. Pat Watkins at Camp Alta Mons Retreat for several hours of discussion on the future of ministry through Green Initiative and how the camp is already on the green track and dreaming big for the future, with plans to pursue 'sacred cedar'

planting and continue implementing the Stream Mitigation.

We hope the mission interpreters were inspiring in their sharing of Mission memories and stories with your churches. The stories keep coming in about the epiphany moments at our local United Methodist churches thanks to your participation in the Mission Celebration weekend.

Thank you for helping us celebrate God's Mission in an Age of Global Christianity. I believe we are accomplishing the mandate in our Conference *Mission Opportunities* booklet reminding us to "go into the world and make disciples" by presenting the variety of ways in which our churches can be and are active in mission opportunities.

Blessings,
Nancy C. Dickison, Chairperson
Roanoke District Mission Celebration

Many thanks to Nancy Sasser for creating and donating the beautiful Mission Celebration banner. Come by and see it at the District office if you missed it over the Mission Celebration weekend.

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