



# Roanoke District News September 2009

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

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### Stewardship Workshop

A top professional consulting company will conduct a series of church stewardship workshops throughout the VA Conference this fall. Falls Church-based James D. Klote and Associates is organizing the free workshops. The company has more than 20 years of experience doing capital and stewardship campaign consulting with churches, the majority being UM churches.

The Roanoke District Stewardship Workshop will be held at 3:00 pm Sunday, Sept. 13, at St. Mark's UMC, 19 Cedar Ridge Dr., in Daleville.

## From Our District Superintendent

Dear Leaders,

I received the Romans 12 Newsletter, Issue #23 today and it got me thinking. Some thoughts . . .

### THE BENEFICIARY CHURCH

All of our churches in some way have been beneficiary churches. This means that we have received from a denomination by way of leadership and financial resource. I think of churches like Windsor Hills or Southview, both started by the same pastor who was sent here in the 1950's to start a church. The conference helped these two communities by offering the leadership and financial resources to have ministry there in a United Methodist way. As I hope you know, both of these churches are on their own now and we are proud to be connected to them. In some ways, all of our churches are "beneficiary" churches because the connection continues to provide pastoral leadership and resources to assist in local ministry.

### THE BENEFACITOR CHURCH

This is the dream. The healthiest churches see themselves as benefactor churches. These churches become the benefactors for their community, both local and global. A church like Blacksburg UMC is thoroughly identifying with the Tech community and also working globally to support an orphanage in Kiev. This is a benefactor church. And the list goes on. Southview, Windsor Hills and Blacksburg are all benefactors by paying all of their apportionments as most all of your churches do. This benefactor role is essential to spiritual maturity in our churches. We have been blessed to be a blessing.

So I ask, how have you been a beneficiary? How can you now be a benefactor as a leader of God's church? Peace to you all.

Steve Hundley



## Children's Ministry

There will be a District wide "Mission Event" for children on Saturday, Sept. 26. We will be doing the "Trek Mission Adventure" sponsored by the Society of St. Andrews. The event will take place at a farm in Bedford. We will meet at Bonsack UMC at 8:00 am and travel in carpools or other church transportation to the farm. We will begin the activities

at 9:00 am at the picnic pavilion on the farm. We will leave the farm around 12:15/12:30 pm and head back to Bonsack UMC to meet rides, etc. Churches can drive directly to the farm without meeting at Bonsack if they choose.

If your church is interested contact Susan Wagner at 977-4212 or email her at [susan@bonsackumc.org](mailto:susan@bonsackumc.org).

Our next District Children's Ministry Fellowship meeting will be some time in the fall. Look for information concerning this in the near future. If you need help with any aspect of your Children's Ministry, please contact Susan at the above contact information.

### District Events & News:

- ✓ **School Supplies** have been coming in pretty well for the Roanoke District Community Outreach Program (**COP**), but they are really short on large youth back packs, Crayola markers, college ruled paper, dividers and composition books. If your church would like to contribute to this cause, please call Deb Keeney at 540-342-3103 or email [do-maha@cox.net](mailto:domaha@cox.net), or simply drop them off at **COP** at Trinity UMC, 305 Mountain Ave. SW in Roanoke.
- ✓ **Jumbo Yard Sale** with baked goods, crafts, hot dogs and hamburgers will be held at Mount Pleasant UMC, 3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd. (off Rt. 116 in SE Roanoke County) on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. For further information call 427-3064.
- ✓ **Greene Memorial UMC** will host Charles Marshall, a Christian Comedian, on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 4:00 pm. Cost is \$5.00 per person. He is known throughout the country for his good clean humor. Please call the church office for tickets 344-6225.
- ✓ The next meeting of the **District Book Club** will be Sept. 22 at the Roanoke UM Home. The book will be *God's Secretaries—The Making of the King James Bible* by Adam Nicolson. For more information, please call Becky Hundley at 904-2960.
- ✓ **“Sixties and Seventies Night” to Benefit COP:** City of Statues, a fine singing group in the Roanoke area, will perform at Trinity UMC on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 7:00 pm. The group is performing to help raise funds for the COP ministry. A free-will offering will be taken during the concert.

## Grace Ministries: Shalom Zone Roanoke, VA

The project is close to a site in Northwest Roanoke. Hopefully next month we will have a Storefront. We have become aware of needs ranging from housing to helping ex-offenders find work. The needs include immigration questions and helping workers find a way to their jobs after the buses shut down at night in Roanoke. We can help folks who are on assistance gain access to larger stores with cheaper prices. There are people who pay high prices for one room in a

house. They can't rent a house because they lack the security deposit. The weekly rental they pay (times four) is more than a monthly rental would cost. So without the deposit a family of three shares one room and shares a kitchen and bath. What can you do? Come to the table with your ideas of the needs of Roanoke and your gifts. For example, would any of you who own a business be willing to hire an ex-offender? If no one is willing to hire them, that

person will surely wind up re-offending when money gets tight. Would some of you be willing to donate so that we have funds for gasoline to transport people to work (when the busses don't run) and to stores (so they can buy what we buy at lower prices, as we do)? If you are interested and want more information, please call Don Edwards at 609-709-0023 or email him at [dondwards.esq@gmail.com](mailto:dondwards.esq@gmail.com).

## District Youth To Attempt to Feed 300,000 People!

The Roanoke district youth helped feed over 15,000 people at their spring retreat this past April. They worked with the Tri-District Retreat and STOP HUNGER NOW and assembled over 15,000 meals that went to feed the hungry. This event was so successful, the council has decided to see if they can feed even more people. Our goal is to assemble 50,000 meals - which will be a huge undertaking. It costs \$.25

to assemble each meal. In order to meet this lofty goal, we will need to raise \$12,500!! That is roughly \$200 per church on the Roanoke district. **OUR CHALLENGE to the churches on the district and the youth groups on the district** is to have every church strive to raise \$200 per church **OR MORE**. What a remarkable witness this would be if we could accomplish this act of service. Our goal is to

raise this by Oct. 4th - and then for the youth fall rally - all youth groups will gather at Bonsack UMC and assemble all 50,000 meals - which will feed **300,000 people!** Youth leaders, we encourage you to put this on your calendar now and get your youth groups out for this awesome event. Get your churches behind this chance to feed 300,000 people in the matter of a couple of hours!

## Bonding for Churches

Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, it will now be the responsibility of each local church to provide fidelity bonding for its church treasurer. This bonding is required by the Book of Discipline 2008, Paragraph 258, 4b, and protects both the local church and the treasurer. Previously, the VA Conference had been able to provide this bonding for all churches that are a part of the Con-

ference. However, the increasing costs and restrictions in providing this coverage have led to the decision that bonding can be provided easier and less expensively when included in each church's own insurance. Trustees of each local church should discuss the inclusion of this bonding with their insurance representative. In many in-

stances, bonding of treasurers is already included in a church's insurance package. Trustees should also consider including Financial Secretaries and others who handle money in the bonding if such insurance is available. Bonding of these others beyond the Treasurer is not required, but it is wise.

## ROANOKE DISTRICT

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Nancy Sasser, District President



Recently LaNora King and I were invited to the Lafayette UMC to give a mini-mission study on the book, ***Giving Our Hearts Away -Native American Survival***. This was one of the studies at this year's School of Christian Mission. Nancy Lynch, president at Lafayette told us to expect a "pot latch" meal and that they were inviting UMW members from Crockett Springs, White Memorial and Goodwin Memorial Churches. This was truly a good example of a cluster meeting, a concept our District Superintendent, Steve used last year with Charge Conferences. When we arrived, the room was

decorated in a Native American theme, we were greeted warmly by ladies dressed in Native American costumes and each person was given a headband and feather to wear. Our meal included Turkey, Buffalo and Wild Rice, Catfish, Corn & Lima Beans, Blueberries and Cranberry Juice. They wanted to create a feeling that we were eating like our Indian ancestors. LaNora and I shared with the group a "tip of the iceberg" program that gave important facts and figures, but also highlighted the plight and pain the Native Americans endured after Columbus arrived here in 1492. Our group was greatly touched by the information given and

was very interested in obtaining copies of the book for further study. (If you wish to purchase a copy or other study books contact Mission Resources at 1-800-305-9857 or at [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org)) Questions and discussion were lively. We felt this was a historic meeting, joining together four churches with a successful study and event. It was a wonderful model for other UMW units to try.

## News from Camp Alta Mons

**LABOR DAY EVENT:** Camp Alta Mons is offering a full day of fun with pool games, wagon rides, live music and closing with campfire stories and Dutch oven desserts on Saturday, Sept. 5, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** There are many ways to help serve the camp. They have seasonal and yearly needs. They are currently in need of wagon drivers to add to their current team of volunteers. Training will be provided. Contact the office for more details.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Online Events Calendar: [www.altamons.org](http://www.altamons.org) click Events Calendar
- Follow them at Facebook and Twitter: visit *Alta Mons* or see what *Willie Jack* has to say. They also have a Twitter page *Alta Mons*.
- Call the office at 540-268-2409

## Positions Available:

**Asbury UMC** in Christiansburg is seeking a keyboardist familiar with church music to accompany the choir, congregational singing and other musical events. Position requires performance each Sunday and at least one choir rehearsal per week. Preferred person would be able to sight read, perform on piano and/or organ, and be familiar with a variety of music, including hymns, gospels, spirituals, and traditional and contemporary anthems. Contact Asbury UMC at 540-382-0743 or via e-mail at [karenj1908@hotmail.com](mailto:karenj1908@hotmail.com)

**Fincastle UMC** is seeking a nursery staff member for two services and for the Sunday school hour each Sunday morning (8:45 am - 12:15 pm) and for occasional special services. They are seeking someone of strong character, who is effective in working with and caring for small children, ages 4 and under. A Job-share will be considered for those who seek to be involved in a worship setting on Sunday mornings. Submit your resume by email to [fumc@rbnet.com](mailto:fumc@rbnet.com) or by mail at Fincastle UMC, PO Box 63, Fincastle, VA 24090.

### More District News:

- ✓ **Northview UMC** is offering a Crusades Bible Study Class beginning Aug. 31 at 7:00 pm in the Seekers Classroom at the Family Life Center. There are two recommended texts for the class: Robert Paynes' *The Dream and the Tomb* and Karen Armstrong's *Islam*. For more information, please call Bart Weakley at 366-0646.
- ✓ **Greene Memorial UMC** will host Elisabeth von Trapp, granddaughter of Baron and Maria von Trapp, on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 7:00 pm. Most of us have grown up watching the Sound of Music and she has been gifted with the musical talents of the family. She is doing a tour of the VA UM churches and we are very fortunate to have her. There is no cost for the program, but donations will be accepted.
- ✓ **Asbury UMC** and Christiansburg Presbyterian Church will hold its 4th Annual Benefit Concert on Oct. 4 at 3:30 pm. The concert is free, but has a tradition of taking a free will offering to benefit two local nonprofit organizations. Each year approximately 40 singers, two conductors, an organist/pianist provide a full program of choral music with the opportunity for audience participation. The concert will be held at Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, 107 W. Main St., Christiansburg. For more information you may contact Rev. Nate Spencer or Ben Dixon at 540-382-0743.

**OLDER ADULT MISSION TRIP**

The final **Primetimer** event this year has a SE Asia flare as Jeanie Blankenbaker leads the group of older adults to Cambodia from Nov. 4-14, 2009. One of the original Mission Initiatives of the GBGM, Cambodia is proud of its growing, young and energetic Methodist Church! In 2003, the UMC in Cambodia joined with three other Methodist agencies for a "one Methodist" agreement, working towards the formation of an autonomous Methodist Church in Cambodia.

For more information on this opportunity to explore the culture of Cambodia and spirit of Christ in its midst, visit [www.primetimers.info](http://www.primetimers.info) and check it out. Deadline is soon approaching!

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

Our sympathies are extended to the family of **Mrs. Lillian Sharp** who died on August 6, 2009. She was the surviving spouse of the Rev. Raymond P. Sharp and the mother of Bruce Sharp, husband of the Rev. Donna Sharp, pastor of Mt. Elbert and Mt. Tabor UMC on the Roanoke District.

**Older Adult Day Retreat**

"Living as Spiritual Older Adults" is the theme of the older adult retreat set for Monday, Oct. 19th from 9:00 am to 2:45 pm at Blacksburg UMC Christian Life Center, 706 Harding Ave., Blacksburg. Retreat leader is Marvin Cropsey, editor of *Mature Years*, a UM magazine for older adults. Marvin, whose home is in Nashville, is also edi-

tor of several popular Bible studies in the *International Lesson Series* and is a popular Bible teacher and retreat leader in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and beyond.

Registration fee is \$20.00/person and \$30/couple. Registration includes lunch and a copy of *Mature Years* magazine. There will be

a book sale from Upper Room Books and older adult ministry resources. For more direct information, contact Bonnie Vanderberg at 540-951-1238 or [thebergs@comcast.net](mailto:thebergs@comcast.net) or Bill Finley at 540-552-3238 or [Finleywm@aol.com](mailto:Finleywm@aol.com). There is also a brochure on the district website. Registration deadline is October 12.

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