

CHURCH AND DISTRICT EVENTS



Wednesday, December 21, from 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. ~ Longest Night, Service of Light – a service of healing, Fletcher Chapel (205 Fletcher Chapel Rd, Covington, VA)



December 21st ~ St Paul UMC (2000 Shutterlee Mill Road, Staunton) 7:00 p.m. ~ Blue Christmas Service: A Service of Hope and Healing



December 23-January 2 ~ District Office will be closed for Christmas and New Year! May you and yours have a very Merry Christmas and a most blessed New Year!



December 25th ~ St Paul UMC (2000 Shutterlee Mill Road, Staunton) 10:00 a.m. ~ Community Christmas Day Worship and Pajama Day



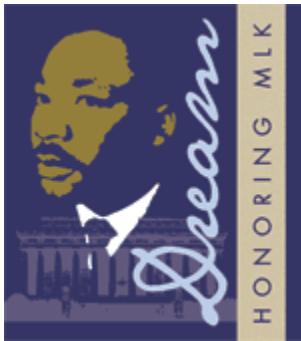
Family Retreat

January 6-7 ~ UMM Annual Tri-District Retreat ~ In our lives, we face choices every day. If you are like me, at times, I worry if I am choosing the right path. Am I responding to God? Am I becoming the man God created me to be? What choice does God desire me to make? We are all running a race in faith and at times need to be refreshed so we can endure. The UM Men's Tri-District Retreat is all about being refreshed and encouraged as we run our race to the glorious Kingdom of God. This weekend is a great time for men to gather with others to share in fellowship and fun. As we gather, we build a community of support where we can encourage and cheer one another along. Our speaker this year is Rev. Matthew Swope. He will be leading us and encouraging us to run our race in faith. We will also be uplifted in song and worship under the leadership of Andrew Davis.



Saturday, January 14, 2017 ~ A special 25th Anniversary Celebration of our Virginia Conference Legislative Network to be held at Centenary UMC in Richmond with special invited guests to include: Virginia's Governor, LT. Governor and Attorney General; our United Methodist Legislators; former CLN Chairpersons; Bishops Lewis, Cho and Kammerer; the current & former VICPP CEOs; family members of founders Leona Bailey and Elvira Shaw. The program will follow lunch and will include: welcome, invocation, introductions, special music, a video especially

prepared for this occasion; a time of remembrance with a selection by a choir, keynote speech by Jim Winkler, the singing of our theme song, "We Are Called" followed by the benediction.



Saturday January 14 from 10:00 a.m. until noon ~ MLK Community Parade will be held. The parade will begin and end at Randolph Street UMC (118 South Randolph Street, Lexington). CARE is the organizer of the parade which is the acronym for community anti-racism education initiative. If your church or church group would like to participate in the parade you can go to CARE's website, CAREROCKBRIDGE.ORG/JOIN-THE-PARADE to sign up as well as to get more information.

January 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Randolph Street UMC (118 South Randolph Street, Lexington) ~ there will be a service, Remembering MLK, commemorating his life and legacy. Dr. Ted Delany of Washington and Lee University, and Rev. Michael A. Turner, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Staunton, will be the keynote speakers.



Friday, January 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at St. James UMC (3777 Churchville Avenue, Churchville) ~ Jam Sessions Return ~ Enjoy playing an instrument or singing? Don't be bashful, don't be shy, beginner or pro, it doesn't matter. Come on out and join us for a great leg slapping foot stomping good time. We'll meet in the social hall downstairs. A keyboard is available. Type of music (Gospel, Popular, Contemporary, Country and Blue Grass) will be selected by those attending. Future Jam Sessions will be scheduled based upon continuing interests. What? You don't play or sing? That's ok, come and listen. For more info call Tom Rose 255-7900.



Saturday, January 21 ~ A Day Apart with Bishop Sharma Lewis ~ St. Paul's UMC (2000 Shutterlee Mill Rd., Staunton) ~ Reserve your space today by contacting the Staunton District Office Phone 540-932-1055 or email at stauntondistrict@vaumc.org. Schedule is: 8:30-9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast for Clergy; 9:30-11:30 a.m. Clergy Session; 11:30-12:15 Worship (Clergy and Laity); 12:30-2:00 Lunch Bunch (Clergy and Laity); 2:15-4:15 Laity Session



January 27-28 (Men) and February 17-18 (Women) ~ 2017 Men's/Women's Emmaus 4th Day Renewals ~ For women and men who have previously participated in the 72 hour "Walk to Emmaus", how have your Fourth Days been? Have you had some "ups" and "downs"? Could you use a little "shot in the arm" to remind you of, and renew you for, following God's call? Most of us do, and this weekend is

just for you...and for God! The retreat will capture some of the elements of your Emmaus walk. There will be three new talks on life in Christian Action by lay persons who have previously shared talks on an Emmaus weekend. Spiritual Directors will lead you in creative and inspiring worship, and there will be plenty of music to let your hearts and voices soar. But, most powerful of all, as we fellowship together and spend time in prayer, we will be fellowshiping with God! *NOTE - The first weekend is for men Only, the second for the women Only! \$65 per person. Register by Dec. 29th and save \$10! Final registration deadlines:Men- January 13th , Women - February 3rd



Thursday, February 2 ~ UM Day at The Virginia General Assembly will be held with a schedule similar to that of previous years, except the 2:00 p.m. time will be a continuation of our anniversary celebration with Bishop Charlene Kammerer as guest speaker.



March 11th, 2017 ~ Virginia Conference UMM Spring Planting (tentative, pending guidance)



April 7-9, 2017 ~ Join Christ UMC (1512 Churchville Ave, Staunton) family and friends as we travel/visit the **Ark and Creations Museum** in a trip to Williamsville, Ky. We will be leaving CUMC at 6:45 a.m. on Friday, April 7th and returning at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, April 9th. Lodging at Holiday Inn in Covington, Ky. **Deadline to register is January 15th, 2017.** For detailed information and to register, please call Norma Sumner at 540-885-2177 or email to: sumner_001@comcast.net. Hope you choose to travel with us!!!



June 4th-June 9th, 2017 ~ Staunton District Youth Summer Mission Trip ~ Open to all rising 6th-12th graders. Join us as we travel to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and do various types of mission work. We will be staying at beautiful Occohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Center. Cost per person \$185. To reserve space contact Beth Christian at the District Office and send a deposit of \$50 per person to the district office, P. O. Box 1048 , Fishersville, VA 22939. **Need more information? Contact BethChristian@vaumc.org** Worship * Work * Witness * Pray * Play. *Don't have youth? Consider partnering in youth ministry by chaperoning.*



For Pastors and Church Leadership: Concerning Pastor and Church Profiles: This is a reminder for Clergy and Lay Leaders to update your Pastor and Church Profiles before February 10. In 2013 new Pastor and Church Profiles were released with new questions. Unfortunately, we have several Pastor and Church Profiles that are blank. The older outdated Pastor Profiles are still available for review; however, they are no longer editable. If you need help, please contact the District Office (stauntondistrict@vaumc.org or 540-932-1055) ~ Bryan Compton, IT Manager, Virginia Conference United Methodist Church