

Staunton District UMC

P.O. Box 1048
Fishersville, VA 22939

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“Thank you” from Casa de Amistad

Thanks to all of you who support Casa de Amistad through the District budget. Your faithfulness enables Casa de Amistad to continue to minister to so many in need.

Blessings,
Cynthia Jordan, Treasurer

As I look back over the year of 2016, I am humbled by the support Casa de Amistad has received from the Staunton District. I know it is made possible because of the faithfulness of the many churches that make up our District. Your financial and prayerful support are greatly appreciated.

Blessings,
Jennifer Strother

Contact Us

We are here to equip and encourage our churches as they strive to do ministry in their unique communities.

Staunton District UMC
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Visit us on the web at
www.stauntondistrictumc.org

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Staunton District United Methodist Churches

March/April 2017

District Leadership Training Day February 25th

2 Locations: Same Great Workshops:

- ◆ 10:00-11:30 a.m. at **Granbery Memorial UMC** (425 West Main Street, Covington) and
- ◆ 1:30-3:00 p.m. at **Christ UMC**, (1512 Churchville Avenue, Staunton)

Courses:

- 1) Fiduciary Faithfulness: Managing Your Church's Money, Workshop Leader: David Dommissee** ~ Our Virginia Conference Treasurer is ready to help you navigate the way to healthy financial management for your church. We encourage treasurers and finance team members to attend.
- 2) Pastor/Staff Parish Relations: Creating a Team that Works, Workshop Leader: Rev. Dave Rochford, District Superintendent** ~ Great information for PPR & SPR teams. Better equip the staffing needs and pastoral leadership of your church.
- 3) Connect! Creating a Culture of Relationships that Matter, Workshop Leader: Beth Christian** ~ A biblical and proven approach to outreach. Includes practical ideas and an introduction to a valuable tool for your church.
- 4) Trustee's Toolbox: An Approach that Works!, Workshop Leader: Earl David Cash** ~ Learn valuable tools for maintaining the physical property of the church and the gifts made to the congregation.
- 5) Finding the Leaders We Wish We Had, Workshop Leader: Rev. Linda Kusse-Wolfe** ~ Key strategies for lay leadership recruitment and development. What does a healthy leadership partnership look like? Laity and clergy are encouraged to share thoughts

Something for Everyone!

The Mission of the Virginia Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.

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From the District Superintendent

On an overcast Saturday last month, some **215** United Methodist laity and clergy from the Staunton District turned out to meet our new Bishop. For more than seven hours, Bishop Lewis made sure she met and spoke with just about *every one* of those Staunton District Methodists, as well as taking the time to field questions from lay and clergy groups deep into the afternoon. It was, to me, a feat of ministry - the leader of over 330,000 VA Methodists, making an effort to come connect with every one of them willing to turn out. And she will do this again and again... 16 times in all!

As your DS, I was proud of the lay leadership and pastors who turned out, and of our preacher, worship leaders and choir (*go, Bath Charge!*), our exemplary-host church St. Paul's, and also proud of our seemingly tireless episcopal leader. But what I found most memorable in the day was something shared by one of our pastors, near the beginning of the clergy session. Responding to the Bishop's question, "what in your opinion are our promising, untapped growth opportunities?", this pastor mused:

"We've started experiencing a sense of community with our fellow clergy. Instead of working in isolation, we are connected as friends and peers. We believe in working for God's Kingdom and not our own little kingdoms."

I believe that is quite true - and if clergy are leading in this, so too are our churches. When I think of how our congregations are connecting with one another to reach others for Christ, I cannot help but think a new wind is blowing (John 3:8). Although this is by no means an exhaustive list, these developments include: a brand new disaster-relief trailer to support district church work teams, churches allied to provide clothing, personal care items and fellowship to low-income teens, a partnership to distribute tens of thousands of dollars-worth of medical equipment each year, a mirth-filled alliance to draw and offer candy to nearly 3,000 trick-or-treaters, congregations collaborating to gather and deliver tons of relief supplies for WV flood victims, and churches jointly operating food-pantry ministries to feed their neighbors. Clearly, at a time when many churches across the Christian tradition are reckoning how much less they have to work with, some of the best things happening across our District are loaves-and-fishes miracles: *you give what you have, we'll give what we have, and let's just see what God will do!*

So while our own little kingdoms wax and wane, God's Kingdom has come among us in signs and wonders. We know it when we see it: it's good news enough for everybody.

Catch the Spirit; blow outside those walls!



Rev. Dave Rochford, D.S.

Help Wanted:

Overlook is in need of another skilled cook to provide meal service to the many groups who come to find God on the mountain. A full weekend on both sides of camp can require 4 to 6 separate kitchen shifts and call for the talents of multiple cooks and servers.

The Overlook family already employs numerous gifted cooks but we will need a couple more to fully staff our upcoming retreats.

Scheduling is very flexible and work is mostly concentrated on weekends. This is a great "second job" for school cafeteria staff, nursing home kitchen staff, or other cooks looking for some extra income.

***Looking for a way to help the ministries at Overlook? We are keeping our Amazon Wish List stocked with various needed items for program and facility. Go to www.amazon.com, click on "Lists" in the upper right corner and enter:**

CAMP GRANDS

Dennis and Norma Lee

*-In Honor of Garnett Turner
-In Memory of Lena Turner
-Mr. & Mrs. J. Wilson Lee
and Gary Lee*

Don and Pattie Petty

Raphael and Jennifer Steinbach and family

Richard and Donna Tinsley

In Memory of Bill, Juanita, and Jack Robey

Winchester District UMM

In Memory of Jim Green

Catherine Zickafoose

In Memory of Juanita Robey

5 Talent Academy

"Defying Gravity": Breaking Free from the Culture of More

Saturday, March 18

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Calvary UMC

Leader: Rev. Tom Berlin

Defying Gravity explores what is required to sustain a vibrant life, what we need versus what we want, and what we can do to avoid being pulled into the orbit of materialism.

Who should come? This event is designed for those who want to learn and lead others to live fruitfully and faithfully. This includes but is not limited to treasurers and Finance folks.

Event Cost: \$35.00 - Registration Deadline is 3/6. (Team pricing discounts are available.)

Register: vaumc.org/5talent



Tuesday, April 18, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, (1904 Mount Vernon Street, Waynesboro) ~ **FREED-UP FINANCIAL LIVING** is a 6-session class on obtaining financial freedom through biblical principles. "This resource pairs sound financial knowledge with biblical principles of money management, guiding participants to develop a personal spending plan that reflects both in a healthy, balanced way. Participants will explore what the Bible and the culture say about the five financial areas of life (earning, giving, saving, debt and spending)". It is open for all – individuals or couples. More information about FUFL can be found at: www.GoodSenseMovement.org. Good \$ense was founded by Willow Creek and has flowered into its own ministry. Stewardship Matters of Virginia will be offering this class beginning Tuesday, April 18, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1904 Mount Vernon Street, Waynesboro. The class will meet in the chapel from 7 – 8:30 p.m. and will be led by Rev. David Rash. The cost is \$32.00 per individual; couples, sharing a workbook is \$42.00. Register at: www.StewardshipMattersVa.org. A flyer is attached – please post and please publicize in your churches. If you have any questions, please call me at 540-335-5175.



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Keezletown, VA 22832

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Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries Ron Robey, Director 540 2MY-CAMP CampOverlook@gmail.com www.CampOverlook.org

OVERLOOK OVERVIEW



BRAND NEW

Summer Adventures!

We're kicking it up a notch this summer as the adventures of the Old Testament come to life - and campers have a few new adventures of their own! If you didn't catch our Christmas Facebook announcement, be sure to check out our website and upcoming brochure for program details. Here are a few of our favorites:

- 1 - Overlook Pioneer campers will continue to explore the flavor of days gone by with a horseback trail ride. This experience will be offered in partnership with our friends and neighbors at Camp Horizons.
- 2 - Adventure Quest campers will still have a high ropes experience and go white-water rafting, but, we're adding a half-day caving trip with expert guide (WILD GUYde Adventures), Mr. Lester Zook.
- 3 - We're offering one special week for 9th - 11th graders that will take their camp experience to a whole new level. MEGA QUEST will raft in Harper's Ferry, enjoy a more adventurous caving expedition, AND trade in their high ropes course for an actual day of climbing at Waterfall Mountain (also with WILD GUYde Adventures).

Be sure to look closely at the grades required for each program as there have been some changes. Most notably, Noah's SEALS is now open to **5th** through 7th graders and Chris Kids is now grades 3rd through 5th.

As always, the Bible will be coming to life this summer in awesome ways! The Old Testament curriculum boasts the most intricate simulations and drama experiences of any of our summer programs. Campers will board the Ark, build the Tower of Babel, survive the Passover, cross the Red Sea, wander in the wilderness, be presented with the stone tablets, visit the tabernacle, fight the Battle of Jericho, go to war against Goliath, worship in the temple, and more!

Registration dates for a few programs are very limited. Register online now to get your first choice event AND take advantage of the March 7th early registration discount of \$20.



Confirmation Camp April 7-8, 2017

If your church will be confirming youth, be sure to utilize this awesome weekend. There is no better way to understand the connectional nature of the United Methodist church than by sharing a confirmation experience with youth from our tri-district area and sometimes beyond! Save the date!

Youth Retreats Made Simple

Have you ever considered the personal and group spiritual growth which could occur by taking your youth away on a retreat? Many youth leaders realize the positive impact this type of event could have, but just don't know where to begin to make it a reality for their youth.

Let Overlook remove the obstacles with our Youth Adventure programs. Spend two nights in one of our youth facilities and choose one of three Psalm-themed weekend curriculums complete with meal guide, off-site adventure, and 4 corresponding devotions. See the flyer with pricing and adventure details on our website at: www.campoverlook.org

You may also enjoy a ski adventure to one of two local resorts with lodging at Overlook. Ski Hostel deals and details are online.

Upcoming Events:

- Confirmation Camp April 7-8
- Men's and Women's Emmaus Retreats April
- Friends Together Camp June 5-7
- Young at Heart June 8
- Overlook Summer Camp June 18 - July 28



Visit us Online!

Our deepest sympathy to:

Mrs. Patricia Harris and her family at the death of her husband, the Rev. Paul Harris. Paul served many churches throughout the Virginia Conference among them, Parrish Court UMC and Mt. Carmel UMC. Her address is: 333 Holly Drive, Covington, VA 24426.

Rev. Doris Hedrick and her family on the death of her husband Joe Hedrick. Doris serves Mount Olivet UMC. Her address is: P O Box 65, Natural Bridge Station, VA 24579.

The family of Mrs. Helen Hoke, widow of Rev. John Hoke, who served South Covington UMC and Alleghany UMC.

Mr. Calvin and Rev. Lucy Hughes on the death of Calvin's sister Diane. Rev. Hughes serves the Rockbridge Charge. Their address is: 125 Boundary Line Lane, Lexington, VA 24450.



Beth Christian, Director of Congregational Resources



We are counting on you to offer your youth these ministry opportunities....



We have 24 youth signed up for our Staunton District youth summer mission trip. We can still add youth (6th-12th grade) and chaperones with a final sign-up deadline of March 15th. Churches sending a group of youth must also provide chaperones with a ratio of 1 adult for every 4 students.

Our mission site is the Eastern Shore of VA where we will be doing various projects the week of June 4th—June 9th. We will be staying at Camp Occohannock on the Bay. We will also enjoy the camp's beautiful worship center, waterfront sports, and challenge course. Cost per person is \$185. Call or email the district office to reserve your spaces. A deposit of \$50 per person is due by March 31st.



Have you ever noticed the youth at Annual Conference? They spend four days together in fellowship and ministry. The youth delegates help with Annual Conference in many ways which include greeting, ushering, technical support, voting, special projects, worship and serve as the voice of young people throughout the Virginia Conference. The youth stay together in a local hotel and are well chaperoned. We have room for two youth to represent the Staunton District. If you know someone who might like to do this please contact the district office as soon as possible. The commitment is June 15th-18th in Hampton, VA.



From Paulo Lopes, VAUMC Director of Ministries with Young People We are working on learning as much as we can about our current ministry context in Virginia as it relates to ministries with young people. To that end we put together a simple, quick survey to get some basic information on ministries with children, youth, and young adults in our conference. **Would you help us get this out into the churches in your district?** It would be tremendously helpful to us in our work, as we attempt to gather a significant sample of our churches. Here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vaumcyp>

District Banquet



*You are invited to the
Staunton District Banquet*



*Friday, March 10th
Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Meal at 6:00 p.m.
at The Hall of Valor at Marshall Hall
VMI, Lexington*

Cost is \$15.00.

Contact the District Office for tickets.

Reservations are due by Friday, March 3rd.

Dates to Remember:

February:

- 20-23 DS attending Cabinet
- 25 District Leadership Training Day (See front page.)

March

- 2 District Board of Missions Managers, 10:00 a.m., District Office
- 10 District Banquet, 6:00 p.m., VMI
- 13-16 DS attending Cabinet
- 18 5 Talent Academy, 9:00 a.m., Calvary UMC
- 25 District UMW Prayer Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Longdale UMC
- 31 Conference Lay Servant Academy

April

- 1-3 Conference Lay Servant Academy
- 22 District UMW Day Apart, 9:30 a.m., Greenville UMC
- 25 Team Leader Training for Volunteers in Mission Groups, 9:30 a.m., Greenville UMC

May

- 8-10 Ministers' Convocation at Wyndham Virginia Crossing Conference Center



Greetings from the Staunton District United Methodist Women!

We finished out our year with a wonderful Advent Breakfast at Mt. Carmel UMC in Covington. We thank Beth Christian for speaking to us about the "All God's Children Camp". We are excited now to look ahead at the programs planned for the Spring of 2017!

Longdale UMC will be hosting our District Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 25. (cost \$6) Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and breakfast served at 9:00 a.m. to be immediately followed by our program. We are privileged to have Dr. Lisa Rochford as our guest speaker.

Another event to look forward to this Spring is the District Day Apart to be held on April 22 at Greenville UMC. Registration will be at 9:30 with the service to begin at 10:00. Our speaker will be the Reverend Gennie Bowles, who serves at Ashwood UMC and Emory UMC on the Hot Springs Charge. A light lunch will be served by the host church. (cost \$6). Mrs. Gayle Urban, Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Staunton District UMW is coordinating these events. I look forward to seeing many of our UMW members at these events.

In His Service,
Libby Keyser, President
Staunton District United Methodist Women

The Credit Union Wants To Donate To Your Church

*Our vehicle loan program is benefiting churches across the Virginia Conference and so far we've donated over \$3600 to conference churches. Each time a church member finances their next vehicle purchase with the credit union or refinances a vehicle loan that they currently have with another lender, the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union will donate \$25 to their church. Our current rates start as low as **2.20% APR** and we finance church vehicles too! Visit www.vumcu.org or contact Mike at 804-672-0200 for details. (For Virginia Conference clergy, church members and their churches. All loans are subject to approval and credit restrictions apply. Not applicable to the refinance of current VUMCU vehicle loans)*

Janie Hightower

Marketing Manager
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