

CHURCH AND DISTRICT EVENTS

Join Us at
Advent Worship



Wednesdays, December 21st, 12:00-1:00 p.m. ~ 2016 Staunton 8 UM Community Advent Luncheon. Theme: God With Us!

Emmanuel! ~ December 21st – Marquis Memorial UMC (1614 West Beverley Street, Staunton), guest speaker: Taylor Mertins. Other Christmas Events: December 18th – Blue Christmas Service, Central UMC, 7:00 p.m.; December 21st – Blue Christmas Service, St. Paul’s UMC, 7:00 p.m.

Community Christmas Day Worship, December 25th, St. Paul’s UMC, 10:00 a.m.



Friday, December 16th ~ Walk to the Manger and Family

Winter Soiree ~ Experience what it might have been like in Bethlehem when Christ was born! This experience is FREE and is our Christmas gift to our community!. Arrive by “caravan” at Overlook where the Roman soldiers will direct you to the census-takers in town. You’ll be recruited by a shepherd to help find some missing

sheep, but your mission might get side-tracked when angels appear to tell you the Good News. The crisp night air will be filled with the sounds of the stable animals as you search out the holy family and find the precious Savior. Continue your journey past three kings and help point them toward the treasure they seek. Adventures begin continuously between 6 and 8pm and last roughly 35 to 40 minutes. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Want to continue your Christmas experience? After your journey through Bethlehem, bring the whole family to stay in a room at Blessings Lodge (4 twin beds per room, feel free to bring what is needed for additional children to sleep on the floor). Enjoy cookies and hot chocolate while we share in Christmas songs and games around the table. A pancake breakfast will be served Saturday morning and then we’ll move to Agape Hill for camp activities the whole family can enjoy together! Gladiator ball, “reindeer games”, sugar cookie decorating, Christmas crafts, and more!! The experience will conclude after lunch. Register online. \$75 per room and breakfast for the whole family. An additional \$15 per person for Saturday activities and lunch.



Friday, December 16 ~ Advocate editor needs stories about local church knitting ministries ~ The February 2017 issue of the *Advocate* will focus on knitting ministries in local churches, sharing the fellowship of these groups as well as the works of art they create.

Contact *Advocate* editor Madeline Pillow to share your articles, to send in pictures or to share points of contact at madelinepillow@vaumc.org. Deadline for this request is Friday, December 16.



Sunday, December 18 at 12:00 noon ~ Randolph Street UMC (118 South Randolph Street, Lexington, VA) Shenandoah Charge will present a Christmas Cantata. You are invited to join the Charge in celebrating the birth of Christ in this ministry of music. A Potluck luncheon will follow the service.



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



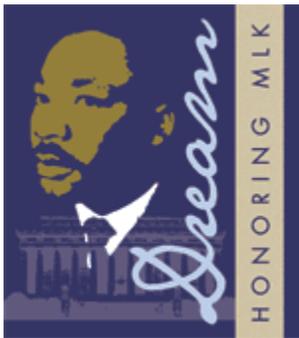
Family Retreat

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. **Be sure to register by December 20th for a \$10 discount!**



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.*

