

CHURCH AND DISTRICT EVENTS



December 9-11 at Lake Junaluska ~ 'Tis Almost the Season! Awaken the spirit of Christmas through holiday music, hearty meals and local artistry. Visit area shops or step back in time with turn-of-the-century Christmas décor at the exquisite Biltmore Estate. Festivities include Point of Grace in concert, a performance of Handel's Messiah, a matinee concert by The Cockman Family, a local treasure, and the Appalachian Christmas Craft Show, which showcases dozens of local artisans. Packages include lodging, special meals, reserved seating at each concert, and a Biltmore Estate ticket. **Starting from \$214/person for two nights.**



December 9th ~ Christmas Cards for Our Service Personnel. Again this year, the District UMM are gathering cards for Service Personnel. If you would like to send some Christmas cheer to our Service people, please bring your cards to the District Office in Fishersville by Friday, December 9th.



Dear Mission Friends, It's that time of year! I apologize for not getting this to you all sooner; it has been a crazy fall! Again this year we are planning on giving **Christmas gifts to children of Hispanic families** who are in need as well as children from families in need who come to the meal program at Basic UMC. We anticipate 150 children to sign up. We hope that you will be willing to participate again this year. Or, if you did not participate last year, you will feel led to do so this year. We will assign a child or children to you and tell you a little about the child's gift request. Your commitment would be to purchase a gift (not clothes) around \$25, label it with the child's name, bag and label gifts by family name and deliver to Basic UIMC. You will not need to wrap the gifts. **We will be wrapping gifts on December 10 from 9:00-12:00.** It is always a fun morning and all are welcome. Many hands make light work! If you would prefer, we would be happy to accept cash or a check to purchase a gift. Please make the check out to Casa de Amistad note gifts and send to Cynthia Jordan, 1110 Hawthorne Lane, Waynesboro, 22980. We have had individuals take individual names or Sunday school classes take a whole family or two. Any

combination will work. The gifts will be distributed at Basic UMC on Sunday, **December 18** after the children's program during the night service. We would like to have a commitment from you as soon as possible stating how many children you can sponsor. I will do my best to respond within a day with the names and basic info for the children you request. We are asking that the gifts be delivered to Basic UMC by **December 5**. Someone is typically at the church daily but we ask that you call ahead, 949-8947, to make sure before you plan to deliver the gifts. We will be happy to make special arrangements if needed. We look forward to hearing from you and hope that together again this year we can provide Christmas love and joy to these wonderful children. Thank you so much for your support and happy holidays!



Saturday, December 10th, from 8 - 10 a.m. ~ Calvary UMC (2179 Stuarts Draft Highway, Stuarts Draft) will hold its FREE Community Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. We also celebrate Cars and Pancakes as we welcome all classic car enthusiasts to show your cars and have breakfast on us. For more information contact Larry Flint at 434-251-3870 or lrfli@aol.com.



Silent Advent Clergy Retreat

December 12-14 ~ Silent Advent Retreat for Clergy, offered by Clergy Spirit Care at the Bellfry Retreat Home (www.belfry.org). Retreat begins Monday, December 12th at 4:00 p.m. and ends Wednesday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m. This retreat will be facilitated by Joy Crawford, Bill Klein and Dawn Peck. We intend for this Silent Retreat to offer time apart to rest in God and prepare our hearts anew to receive the Christ Child. Cost estimated at this time is \$175.00 per person. Complete details will be available later this Fall; however, if you would like to reserve a space, please email Dawn Peck at dhpeck@hotmail.com.



Wednesdays, December 14th, and December 21st, 12:00-1:00 p.m. ~ 2016 Staunton 8 UM Community Advent Luncheon. Theme: God With Us! Emmanuel! ~ December 14th – St. Paul's UMC (2000 Shutterlee Mill Road, Staunton), guest speaker: Janet Knott; Wednesday, 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 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 We invite you to the **United Methodist Day at the General Assembly 25th Anniversary (1992-2017) of our Virginia Conference Legislative Network** to be held at **Centenary UMC (411 E. Cary Street, Richmond, VA)** with special invited guests to include: Virginia's Gov., LT. Gov. and Attorney Gen.; our United Methodist Legislators; former CLN Chairpersons; Bishops Lewis, Cho and Kammerer; the current and former VICPP CEOs; family members of founders Leona Bailey and Elvira Shaw. Registration 11:00 a.m. and Lunch at 12 Noon, Pre-Registration required. Cost for the day is only \$15, for both events \$35. 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. As usual, UM Day at The Virginia General Assembly will be held on the first Thursday of February, February 2, 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. To register for either or both events go to www.vaumc.org, then "Conference Calendar" and scroll to the appropriate month



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



**February 2, 2017 ~ United Methodist Day at the General
Assembly**



**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.*



Vibrant church in Fishersville, VA seeking a PT paid pianist to accompany the choir and perform for Sunday worship services, special presentations, and outreach programs. This position reports to the Director of Music Ministries. Salary is commensurate with experience. A detailed job description is available by contacting the church office at (540) 942- 9355. Resumes must be received in the church office by: **Monday December 12, 2016.** Please send resumes via email or a printed copy can be mailed to: Pianist Search Committee, 1600 Jefferson Hwy, Fishersville, VA 22939.