



# THE TOWER



Monthly Newsletter of  
Verona United Methodist Church



**December  
2016**

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Robert J. Weeks**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Rev. Jeff Allen**  
*Visitation Pastor*

**Kevin McMullen**  
*Associate Pastor for  
Aisle 7 Fellowship*

**Shawna Hiner**  
*Office Administrator*

**Sheila Fair**  
*Treasurer*

**Joy Tinsley**  
*Music Director*

**Ethan Eldred**  
*Worship Leader—A7F*

**Linda Toler**  
*Organist*

**Rhonda Reeser**  
*Pianist*

**Amanda Hall**  
*Director Children's Min.*

**Bill & Carolyn Harlow**  
*Directors Youth Ministries*

**Phyllis Mauzy**  
*Nursery Director*

**Ken & Donna Cason**  
*Custodial Staff*

## From the Senior Pastor

### Where the Christmas Winds Blow

**I**t was a chilly, windy day in late October when Christina and Trevor were married. The view of the surrounding mountains was breath-taking. The sun shone brightly. Hundreds of acres of harvested fields surrounded us as we reached the final moments of the wedding ceremony. I offered the final prayer of blessing and prepared to make the joyful announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you...." Then it happened. A 40-mile-an-hour wind gust blew a long, twisted piece of fishing line onto the raised platform. The line wrapped around Trevor's leg and he struggled to shake it off. I looked at Trevor and then at the amused friends and family around us and proclaimed: "The fishing line symbolizes that Trevor is caught!"

I shared that story in our worship services the next day, wondering at the strange moments in life where God proves He has a powerful sense of humor. I was also reminded of the words of Jesus when he said: "*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit (John 3:8).*"

Jesus was responding to Nicodemus, a Pharisee seeking a rational explanation of the process of eternal life. We citizens of the twenty-first century are kindred spirits with Nicodemus. We seek a "plan" of salvation, or "steps" to salvation that satisfies our reasoning. But Jesus speaks of salvation as a mysterious wind that comes without warning, reminding Nicodemus that the Spirit of God and the ways of God cannot be intellectually analyzed, dissected and put in a box, no matter how hard we try.

Why do I bring this up as we approach Christmas and the coming of the Son of God into the world? Because we have heard the story all our lives; because we have dissected the scriptures and visited manglers and attended cantatas; and believe that because of our experiences and knowledge we have all the meanings and intricacies of Christmas down pat. The purpose of the season is understood. The case is closed.

But I would strongly, urgently advise that we take a step back from our false confidence that we possess all there is to know about Christmas. Let's step back far enough that we become like children again, looking in wonder and credulous joy at the sights and sounds of the season.

"You cannot tell where the Spirit comes from or where it is going."

May the Spirit of this Christmas surprise and astound us. May it lead us to places into paths of faith and service we have never experienced.

Merry Christmas to our church, our families, our community, and our world! May Christ shine in and through us in the this sacred, joyful season!

## Our Mission

WE **GLORIFY CHRIST** AS WE:  
REACH PEOPLE AS THEY ARE  
RELATE THEM TO GOD  
EQUIP THEM TO SERVE WITH  
US, AND  
GO FORTH TO MAKE A HOLY  
DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

### Newsletter Deadline is December 15

Please submit items to  
Shawna Hiner by date  
above for the **January**  
Newsletter. By phone,  
248-7777 or email,  
shiner@veronaumc.com

If you would a copy of  
**Church Council Minutes**  
please contact Shawna in  
the church office:  
248-7777 or  
shiner@veronaumc.com  
*All meetings except  
Staff Parish Relations  
Committee (SPRC) are  
open to the congregation.*



### Miss A Sunday?

Pastor Bob's  
sermons are online.  
Go to  
www.veronaumc.net  
and check it out!  
You can also receive  
weekly announce-  
ments by email.  
Call 248-7777



# Christmas Carol Celebration

Sunday, December 18, 6 p.m.

Presented by the  
Verona UMC Choirs

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



5 p.m. (Children's Service for Entire Family) at

Aisle 7 Fellowship/Verona Community Center

7:30 p.m. (Candlelight & Communion Service) at VUMC

11 p.m. (Candlelight & Communion Service) at VUMC

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Yes, Christmas day is on a Sunday this year. We'll have one wor-  
ship service at 10 a.m. with no Sunday School. We ask everyone  
to come "as you are" for a festive celebration of Jesus' birth!

## NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

New Year's Day is also on a Sunday. We'll have one worship ser-  
vice at 10 a.m. with no Sunday School.



## Blood Drive

### Virginia Blood Services at VUMC

Thursday, December 15

12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Walk-ins welcome! Give Blood! Save a Life!

## The Nurture Work Area

### Between Services Coffee Time

The following groups/teams/classes are scheduled to host Coffee and Fellowship time on Sundays in October through December. Information and instructions are posted on back of first cabinet door in the kitchen. If there are questions/concerns please contact Kim Cash, Chair or our Nurture Work Area.



- ◆ December 4 Home Builders
- ◆ December 11 Witness Team
- ◆ December 18 Petal Pushers
- ◆ December 25 (Christmas Day—One Service, 10am)



**Coffee Time:** We are looking for additional new groups/teams/classes/families/couples to add to the Coffee Time list – If you are willing to do this about 4 times a year (**or even once a year**) please contact Kim Cash at 607-7380.

### Wanted: Sunday School Teachers

**We Need Adults to work with our Sunday School at all age levels** – Please contact Children’s Director Amanda Hall or Kim Cash (Nurture Chair).



## Food Pantry Donations

*Assist local families in need of food!*

On the First Sunday of each month we have a special collection for items for our church food pantry. Collection boxes are located at both entrances to the sanctuary. You can leave items at any time during the month.

## Salt & Peppers News Corner

*For anyone with a little “salt and pepper” in their hair!*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Saturday, December 3 ~ Lynchburg, VA

We will be attending the 2:00 matinee of “Jingle in the City” at Thomas Roads Baptist Church. This is a live Broadway-style musical featuring the Living Christmas Tree. You can find out more at <http://virginiachristmasspectacular.com>. We have sold all the tickets we have in the prime section. The cost is \$25 plus lunch on your own (usually around \$15), and if you have not paid for your tickets, please do so as soon as possible. Please give your checks to one of the four contacts listed below or to Shawna. We will leave VUMC at 9:45 – 10:00 am and return by 7:00 p.m.

**Please watch for details on plans for 2017 events.**

*Thank you for your participations in our 2016 events. Each of you adds something special to our group by your attendance.*

**For more information on upcoming events, contact:**

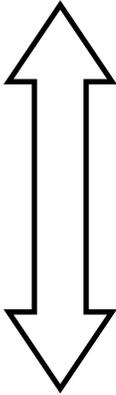
- Carolyn Anson -294-2061, Faye Wills –234-9410,
- Sandy McAllister -255-6488 or Gayle Meeks –248-1325
- Laura Gurkin - 887-2889

## Staff Christmas Gift

*“Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.” (from I Thessalonians).*

We will be collecting donations for our annual church staff Christmas gift on Sundays, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, & 12/18. We have 18 persons on our staff who dedicate themselves daily to serving in the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. Special donation envelopes are available in the pews, or you can place your check or cash envelope in the offering plate with the notation "Staff Appreciation." You can also mail your donation or drop it by the VUMC office.

*Thank you!*



## Thoughts on Stewardship

*Some people say, "Give till it hurts."  
But God recommends that we give until  
it feels good. God loves a cheerful giver!*

—Brian Kluth, Pastor

*A checkbook is a theological document;  
it will tell you who and what you worship.*

—Billy Graham

## Numbers that Matter thru 10/31

Year-to-Date Average Attendance	
Verona UMC Campus	206
Aisle 7 Campus	54
TOTAL	260
General Fund Income 331,990	
General Fund Spending 364,873	
DIFFERENCE (32,883)	



## Online Giving Available

It's easy, safe and secure. Go to the church website ([veronaumc.com](http://veronaumc.com)) and click on the online giving banner OR drop by the church office during the week and Shawna can assist you in setting up your online giving.

## Join a Prayer Group

Prayer is the foundation of everything we do as a church. In the Bible we are called on to pray without ceasing—come join your voice!

### Pastor's Prayer Group

*Mondays at 9 a.m., Verona Community Center*

### Prayer Life Group

*Mondays at 7 p.m., Verona Community Center*

### Wednesday Evening Prayer Group

*Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Next to Library*

### Friday Morning Prayer Group

*Fridays at 10 a.m. at VUMC*

## Organ Fund News

In 2012 our Church Council voted to loan \$65,000 from the church's Memorial Fund to complete the purchase of our organ. The balance in our Organ Fund is \$44,215.75 and the Finance Committee has voted to move that amount from the Organ Fund to the Memorial Fund as a partial repayment of the loan, leaving 20,784.25 to be raised. We appreciate your continued support of the Organ Fund so we can repay the balance in a timely manner. [Note: this is a correction to an announcement which mistakenly said the funds had been loaned from the general fund.]

## What gifts will you bring?

*Will you join others in offering your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service to help our church fulfill its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in 2017?*

As we celebrate God's gift of His Son during this Christmas season and prepare for a new year, will you be praying about how you can make a difference in 2017? Our church has a heart for missions and sharing the Gospel. A resolution to being present each Sunday, to praying daily, to an increased tithe, to active participation in the church's ministries, will make an eternal difference in our world!



## Hours for Community Center

Cafe open from 8:30-5:30, Mon.-Friday. Groups may reserve rooms from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Volunteer at the Community Center

Can you give a few hours to the Verona Community Center each week? We are scheduling volunteers to serve as hosts on three-hour shifts, M-F 8:30-5:30 / Saturday 8:30-12  
Email Lydia Weeks at [lydspot@yahoo.com](mailto:lydspot@yahoo.com)  
for information or to volunteer



**Youth Group is for 6th - 12th grades. BRING A FRIEND!**

*Our Youth Coordinators are Bill & Carolyn Harlow.  
Reach them at 578-5575 with any questions.*

## DECEMBER YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

**The 2017 Youth Mission Trip** will be to Chillicothe, Ohio June 24th-July 1st 2017. We will finalize our mission members by December 2016. If you are interested in going on the youth mission trip, please see Bill or Carolyn Harlow. This trip is for all youth in 6th grade and older—and adults—and are geared for youth. They offer a scripture reading each day, morning and evening program, and giving back by doing community service work (painting, building wheelchair ramps, or other small home repairs). We will have a brief meeting at October 9th youth meeting to look at fundraisers and who will be attending the trip.

**Mark your calendars now!** The youth will be making Christmas gifts to give away. Sunday December 4th the youth will be painting (snowman picture) with Crafty Canvas (girls) cost is \$15. The boys will be making trays out of wood (still finalizing the cost), this could also be used for a Christmas gift. Parents/adults are welcome to come paint with us, adults cost \$25.

### Youth Events in December

- Sunday, December 4, 4pm-7pm Youth painting & making wooden trays (see announcement above)
- Sunday, December 11, noon-1:30pm Practice for stick skit all youth needed, in sanctuary
- Thursday, December 15, 6:30-7:45pm Youth needed to serve Ruritans meal
- Saturday, December 17, 7pm-8:30pm Practice for stick skit; youth needed, in sanctuary
- Sunday, December 18, Both Services Stick Skit for Christmas



### Children's Christmas Musical Drama

**Sunday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.**

*Everyone is invited to attend!*

**Refreshments served afterwards**

### Cookies with Santa

**Saturday, December 10, 2 pm to 4 pm**

Join us for a fun afternoon! We will be decorating Christmas cookies, playing games, doing crafts, and of course, visiting with Santa! Children and adults are invited to wear their favorite pajamas as they wish. Bring your camera to take your own photos with Santa.

Cost: FREE, but donations appreciated

Sponsored by: Aisle 7 Fellowship and Verona Ruritans Club.

If you are interested in helping with this event, or donating supplies, please contact Amanda Hall at 540 280 1455 or [Amandavumc@gmail.com](mailto:Amandavumc@gmail.com)

## Women's Bible Study



### Start the new year with "The Armor of God" Bible Study by Priscilla Shirer

**When:** Tue. Jan. 3rd - Tue. Feb. 7th, 2017

**Where:** Verona Community Center

**Time:** 7-8:30 pm

**RSVP:** Monday, December 19th

Dear Ladies,

I am super-excited to share Priscilla Shirer's (actress from the movie, "War Room") study with you as she teaches us how to suit up with "The Armor of God". We will learn how to claim the Word of God as our own as we grow in our understanding of what it means to be warriors for Christ. Clothed in tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (Colossians 3:12), we learn what it means to **"put on"** God's Belt of Truth, His Breastplate of Righteousness, His Shoes of Peace, and His Helmet of Salvation and to **"carry"** His Shield of Faith and Sword of Truth. As a visual learner, this study has impacted my life as I now **"see"** myself as protected, strong, and secure in Christ when I **"suit up"** with His mighty armor.

I hope you will consider joining us on Tuesday evenings at the community center. Please let me know by Monday, Dec. 19 if you would like to participate, as I need to order the books.

**You may reach me at 540 421-5707.**

**Texts are welcome. You may also email me at [llgurkin@gmail.com](mailto:llgurkin@gmail.com).**

*God Bless! Laura Gurkin*

## Greetings from Aisle 7!

**W**ith December near, I want to share one last thought of how thankful I am for so many things. I am especially thankful for the opportunity to serve in this wonderful community we all call home, and to be able to share our lives together every day.

We are entering a time of reflection and expectation, the Advent season. Even though the word "advent" can mean the anticipated arrival of any notable person or thing, we at Aisle 7 and in Christian churches around the world celebrate it as the two-fold coming of Christ. The first Advent, of course, was the coming of the baby Jesus, at Christmas. But what we celebrate most is the second Advent—our anticipation of his return as Christ the King. Every year, and really every Sunday, we look forward with longing to be reunited with Him again, and I pray that we can keep His Resurrection and spirit alive in our hearts and minds as we continue to shine His light into the world this season.

This December will be a busy one for our growing church too! We will sponsor an afternoon of "Cookies with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 10 at the community center. We would love to see you and your family there! Aisle 7 will host our first Christmas Party on the evening of the 18th—we look forward to relaxing and enjoying each other's company. We will also host a traditional Christmas service with our partners at Verona UMC, which will take place at 5 pm on Christmas Eve at the Verona Community Center. This service will be casual, family friendly, and child-oriented; so come as you are and bring a friend!

Here's an update on our Operation Christmas Child boxes. The over 50 boxes we gave away will be distributed through a network of over 100 countries to needy children. This means 50 plus kids will be touched by your generosity and love this Christmas season. Thank you again to everyone who helped make it such a big success!

I'm also excited to share that we have partnered with Young Life at Fort Defiance. They are now using the community center as a meeting place; as well as being a resource for additional support, guidance, or counseling that the youth may need as they navigate the often tumultuous years of high school. Yet one more way we show Christ's love to the community.

Finally, we at Aisle 7 have decided to forgo a service on Christmas Day, our last Sunday of the year. We want all of you to be able to honor your family traditions, celebrate the day, and spend time together in joy and peace. We encourage you, as always, to take a few moments in prayer together with your families, and enjoy all of God's blessings in your life. We look forward to beginning the new year with fresh hearts.

In His grace, Pastor Kevin

## Thank You Church Leaders

**O**ur Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee wishes to thank all those who have served as committee chairs and members over the past year, as well as those who have served in special positions on our Church Council.

We also welcome those who have agreed to answer the call to serve in 2017.

When we became members of Verona United Methodist Church, we promised to support the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus by sharing our time, prayers, tithes, witness, and service to others. We thank all those who have faithfully given themselves in all these ways.

Many of the leadership positions at VUMC are three-year terms, meaning there is a change-over in leadership every so often that is healthy for the individual and the church. We encourage people to pray before making their decision to serve and to familiarize themselves with the duties of the position. If you are currently serving or are new to a position, here is an internet link that can help you understand your responsibilities:

<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions>

## Helping Hands Ministry



**T**here are a number of small building and repair projects in our community (in neighbors' homes and around our church building) that can be taken care of in a short amount of time with one or two people doing the work. A list of these projects is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex between the Sanctuary and Social Hall. Please review the list weekly to see if there is a project you are capable of doing. If the project will take a few more people, gather up a group and take care of it.

Questions? Call Doug May at 241-5605.

JOIN OUR

# CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

## Children's Council Meeting Sunday, January 8 @ 12:30pm

If you are interested in working with our wonderful children in any capacity in 2017, please attend this meeting to be held in the VUMC fellowship hall.

We will discuss all the year's children's events including Sunday School and VBS.

Even if you would like to do "behind the scenes" work instead of working directly with children, please attend.

Lunch will be provided.

## New Pastor's Bible Study Begins January 8th

### *Understanding and applying the Bible*

Start your new year with a study that will help you understand and apply the Bible to your daily life. For 8 weeks we'll examine how the various sections of the Bible—whether books of history, poetry, prophecy or other—contribute to one unified message of faith, hope, and salvation. Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. in Room 145. Use the tear-off sign-up sheets in the bulletin or contact the office at 248-7777.

## Council Members— Mark Your Calendars

Our first meeting of 2017 will be held in Room 146 on Tuesday, January 17 at 7 p.m. All new church council members are encouraged to attend. An agenda will be sent out in early January. Charge Conference reports, including budgets and leadership positions for 2017, are available from the church office.

## The Staunton Choral Society Christmas Concert

### *"The Promise of Ages"*

**Sunday, December 4, 7 p.m.**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

There will be 4 Verona UMC members singing: Susan Allen, Melinda Wills, Doris Wright and Sue MacTavish. Please plan to attend if you can -- we always love to look out and see your happy faces.



# VERONA UMW



## Remember your Prayer Partner



### Christmas Tea December 11 at 3 p.m.

Please mark December 11<sup>th</sup> on your Calendar. This is the Date for our UMW Christmas Tea. Unit will provide the Tea. Bring your favorite tea cup, and some finger foods – tea sandwiches or sweets for 2 or 3 to share. Hats and gloves optional! (Please note: the tea is in place of the covered dish meal originally scheduled for evening of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>) Program will include: Candle Burning, 2016 Prayer Partner reveal and selection of 2017 Prayer Partners; and Installation ceremony of new officers. Please let Sue

MacTavish know if you have an Electric tea kettle we can use that afternoon.

### Not a Member of the United Methodist Women?

Talk with me and let me tell you about how Great it is to be a United Methodist Woman  
Sue MacTavish,  
Verona UMW Pres.

While our UMW elections were not as exciting as our nation's presidential elections, they take place! I am happy to report to you the new 2017-18 Verona UMW leadership team. Installation of the new officers will take place at the Christmas Tea, December 11, 3 pm.



**President** – Joy Utberg **Vice President** – Gayle Meeks **Secretary** – Linda Garber **Treasurer** – Millie Davis

**Coordinator of Spiritual Growth** – Grace Dick **Secretary of Program Resources** – Lydia Weeks

**Nominating** – Joy Tinsley **Circle leaders:** Esther – Pat Foster and Rebecca – Gayle Meeks

### VUMC UMW Circle Meetings

**Esther Circle**—meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7 pm in homes – Pat Foster, Chair

**Rebecca Circle**—meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat., 10 am at Gayle Meeks, Chair

### BackPacks for Braves

Verona UMC Congregation --- Thank you, Thank you to all who have donated to the BackPacks for Braves program. You heard the cry and the \$\$ and donations have poured in!!! We cannot thank you enough!! We are now solvent again and can afford to provide the Verona Elementary School Children with Weekend food Backpacks for this school year.

Please note: We will need food donations through the end of this School Year! **Our red bin is located in the front hall** and is marked BackPacks for Braves. We need small cans of wieners & beans (wiener beanies), fruit cups, apple sauce cups, small bags of chips, granola bars, pudding cups.

- Thank you, Sue



Compiled by the  
United Methodist Women  
Verona United Methodist Church

## Get Your Copy Today

### "Angel Baby Stories: Powerful Stories of Faith"

Now on Sale by our UM Women for only \$10 a copy

You will want a copy of this outstanding book for yourself and more copies to give all your friends. True Stories of Faith written by members (or friends of members) of our Verona UMC Congregation. Get your copy Now!

When one woman told her story at the United Methodist Women (UMW) meeting, a fire was ignited. That one story prompted others to tell their stories and the idea for *Angel Baby Stories* was born. The UMW of Verona United Methodist Church pulled these powerful stories of faith together to share with others.

The stories are certainly not all about babies, and they are certainly not all about babies who died. But, they are stories about someone's baby whose life event somehow caused the author to realize that God had touched them and strengthened their per-

### VUMC Chancel Choir News



*We encourage prospective members to come and experience the fun and inspiration of a VUMC choir practice—there are no tryouts, all are welcome. The 11:00 choir practices from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The 8:30 choir practices from 7:15 to 8:15pm (there is a fifteen minute "overlap" when the choirs practice together).*

#### Dates to Remember:

- Sun. Dec. 18 - Christmas Program at 6 p.m. - Joint Choir
- Sun. Dec. 25 - Joint Choir - One Service 10 a.m.

#### Inclement Weather Rule:

If Augusta County Schools close early or cancel school, **NO CHOIR REHEARSAL!**

- \* *The 11 a.m. Choir will begin wearing robes on Sun. Nov. 6th and wear them through Easter.*
- \* *The 8:30 a.m. Choir will wear robes the month of December (Dec. 4 - 25).*

**online**  
**GIVING**  
easy. fast. effective

## Online Giving Helps Everyone

- Online giving means your offering is received by the church no matter what the weather or if you are out of town
- With online giving, you can enter a contribution schedule for the whole year (or beyond) and never have to worry about whether or not you've missed a Sunday
- Online giving reduces our church volunteers' work in recording cash and checks
- Online giving makes more sense for younger adults who seldom handle cash or write checks
- Online giving makes church planning easier as giving becomes more regular and predictable
- Online giving reduces your personal time in giving—stop ordering checks, worrying about the check you forgot to write, and searching for your checkbook on Sunday mornings
- Online giving gives you the opportunity to use credit or debit cards and e-checks
- Online giving allows you to make a donation while it's on your mind, day or night
- Donations can be made from your phone, your computer, your tablet—anywhere you have an internet connection
- Online giving allows you to make general or special donations

Contact Shawna in church office (248-7777) for help. To set up your account visit:  
<http://veronaumc.net/online-giving/>

Note that there is a 3% fee paid by our church for use of a credit or debit card. You have the option to add that fee to your donation. If you use an e-check, the fee is 50 cents per transaction.

**Remember  
in  
Prayer**

Don McFaden  
Glen Sutton  
Roger Moats  
Louise Roadcap  
Frances Johnson  
Ray Smith  
Charles Cook  
Larry Staples  
Harle Jackson  
Joy Tinsley  
Bill Welliver  
Kitty Wine  
Bobby Breeden  
Fred Foster  
Jeff Spiggle  
Elijah Smith

Thelma Smith  
Dot Hess  
Patsy Dastoli  
Willie Lockridge  
Donald Smith  
Ronald Smith  
Margaret Helmick  
Jean May  
Inez Fultz  
Howard Rexrode

**Our Christian Love and Sympathy** are extended to Herthel Chestnut in the recent loss of her brother, Hunter Gutshall.

**Our Christian Love and Sympathy** are extended to Wayne and Thelma Smith and Family in the loss of their daughter, Angie Ruoto.

**Our Christian Love and Sympathy** are extended to Kit Austin in the loss of his sister, Rose.



**Congratulations** to Sarah Jennings, a member of VUMC, who has been elected as a Young Adult Member to the Virginia Annual Conference next June in Hampton. And to Sue MacTavish, nominated as a Lay Representative to the Annual Conference. We also recognize and congratulate Luke Jennings who received the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 13.

## *Notes of Sincere Appreciation*

Thank You to my church family for all the beautiful cards and expressions of sympathy at the passing of my father. A special thank you to those loving brothers and sisters in Christ who attended our family night. What a blessing you were to all of us. Although my father's passing was sudden and unexpected, my heart is comforted knowing he peacefully fell asleep here on earth and awoke with the Lord. He leaves a legacy of a strong faith that remains in the hearts of all my family. Again, thank you.

*In Christian Love, Janice Bussard and Family*

Thank You to Pastor Bob and to VUMC for the prayers and calls of concern. Judy Costello and Doug Shifflett, a special thanks to neighbors, Bob and Nancy Evers for visits and food. A special angel, Julia Brett for her comfort and support during the accident. In the hospital the physician came in and said your armor protected you. Ephesians 6 talks about the whole armor of God. Trust God to protect us and obey him in every area of our lives.

*God Bless, Debra Hilbert*

Thank you to our Scouts! Pack 121 and Troop 121 collected 663 pounds of food. New Hope pack/troop 86 collected 436 pounds in November for a **grand total 1099+ pounds**. (More food was dropped off later, which increased the total).

*The VUMC Food Pantry*

Thank you for the special surprise for me on Sunday, November 6th. I enjoy working with all of you and I surely didn't expect this. I enjoy being part of this wonderful Church Family. Thank you again and may God bless each of you.

*Very Sincerely, Linda Toler*

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards, and visits while I was in the hospital. Thanks to Pastor Bob for his visit and to Pastor Jeff for his call and prayer. I would be lost without God in my life. God Bless and love to each of you!

*Mary Lam*

Well, it's over and our beautiful summer is gone. It's time for everything, including us, to rest and prepare for spring when, God willing, we'll do it all over again. The past six months have been amazing—we were blessed with plenty of sunshine and rain whenever we needed it.

Our Petal Pushers team worked hard and outdid themselves when I was down and unable to help. They made sure everything was up to par every week. I couldn't praise nor appreciate them more—they're amazing!

We've enjoyed working, visiting and eating together. A big part of our mission is caring for and about each other. We are a big, happy family!

We encourage anyone who is willing to get dirty and sweat a little to join us. All are welcome!

Thank you for your comments, compliments and interest, but most of all thank you for allowing the Petal Pushers to serve in such a rewarding way.

*Patsy Mayle*

# Verona UMC Calendar of Events - December 2016

- 12/3 9:45am Salt & Peppers Trip to Lynchburg
- 12/4 5:30pm Children's Christmas Play Practice, Sanctuary  
4:00pm Youth Painting/Wooden Trays, BRMH  
8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
- 12/5 9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center  
6:30pm Scouts, RM 141,142  
7:00pm Prayer Life Group-Community Center
- 12/6 10:00am Staff Meeting
- 12/7 6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB  
6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds  
6:30pm Joint Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
- 12/11 12:00pm Youth Practice Skit, Sanctuary  
3:00pm UMW Christmas Tea-BRMH  
4:00pm NA, RM 146  
**6:00pm Children's Christmas Play, Sanctuary**  
8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
- 12/12 9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center  
6:30pm Scouts, RM 141,142  
7:00pm Prayer Life Group-Community Center
- 12/14 6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB  
6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds  
6:30pm Joint Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
- 12/15 12-5pm Blood Drive-BRMH  
7:00pm Verona Ruritans-BRMH (Youth serving)
- 12/17 7:00pm Youth Practice skit, Sanctuary
- 12/18 6:00pm Christmas Carol Concert by VUMC Choirs, Sanctuary  
8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
- 12/19 9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center  
6:30pm Scouts, RM 141,142  
7:00pm Esther Circle  
7:00pm Prayer Life Group-Community Center

- 12/21 6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB  
6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds  
6:30pm Joint Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
- 12/23 OFFICE CLOSED
- 12/24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service for Children/Family at A7F/VCC  
7:30pm Christmas Eve Service (Candlelight/Communion) at VUMC  
11:00pm Christmas Eve Service (Candlelight/Communion) at VUMC
- 12/25 10:00am ONE WORSHIP SERVICE (NO Sunday School)**
- 12/26 9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center  
6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB  
6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds  
6:30pm Joint Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141



**Worship Services held each Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
with Sunday School at 10 a.m.  
Our second campus, Aisle 7 Fellowship,  
meets at the Verona Community Center at 10:45 a.m.**



- |      |       |                   |       |                |       |                    |
|------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|
|      | 12/10 | Eric Gibbons      | 12/17 | Mike Chittum   | 12/29 | Rita Butler Halley |
|      | 12/11 | Don Jennings      |       | Steven Powers  |       | Patsy Rhinehart    |
|      |       | Colton Hisey      | 12/18 | Fritz Horisk   |       | Faye Wills         |
|      | 12/12 | Colby Moore       | 12/20 | Debbie Hilbert |       | Fred Lackey        |
| 12/1 |       | Colton Thornton   | 12/21 | Malissa Reed   | 12/30 | Cameron Little     |
|      | 12/13 | Farris Gwin       | 12/22 | Elaine Huffman |       | Alix Davis         |
| 12/3 | 12/13 | Jerry VanLear     |       | Larry Wills    | 12/31 | Devyn Riley        |
|      |       | Mary Karicofe     |       | Autumn Hitt    |       | Joy Utberg         |
| 12/4 |       | Gabrielle Halpin  | 12/23 | Joan Perdue    |       | Lydia Weeks        |
|      |       | Blake Hohenstein  | 12/24 | Carolyn Bean   |       |                    |
| 12/5 |       | Tyler Hohenstein  | 12/26 | Carson Hall    |       |                    |
| 12/6 | 12/14 | Brayden Quick     | 12/27 | Eddie Mzingo   |       |                    |
| 12/7 | 12/15 | Nancy Welliver    |       | Nick Bauman    |       |                    |
|      | 12/16 | Wendell Alexander |       | Willa Hickman  |       |                    |
|      |       | Anzie Linger      |       | Ron McAllister |       |                    |
| 12/9 |       | Corkie Collie     | 12/28 | Dot Hess       |       |                    |
|      |       | Amber Wagner      |       |                |       |                    |





Verona United Methodist Church  
 P.O. Box 47 - 406 Lee Highway  
 Verona, VA 24482-0047

Non-profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Staunton, Virginia  
 Permit No. 444

Return Service Requested

**Staying in touch:**

**Church Phone #'s :** 540/248-7777 Fax 540/248-2243  
**Church Website:** www.veronaumc.net

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Bob Weeks  
 Pastor's Study: 540/248-7778  
 Email: bobweeks@veronaumc.com

**Sunday Schedule:**  
 Worship 8:30 a.m.  
 Fellowship Time 9:30-10 a.m.  
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 A7F Worship 10:45 a.m.  
 Worship 11:00 a.m.

## Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S  
 Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U  
 R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S  
 N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E  
 J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J  
 M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T  
 D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M  
 Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



- angels
- Christmas
- donkey
- innkeeper
- Jesus
- Joseph
- king
- manger
- Mary
- nativity
- salvation
- sheep
- shepherds
- star
- wisemen

