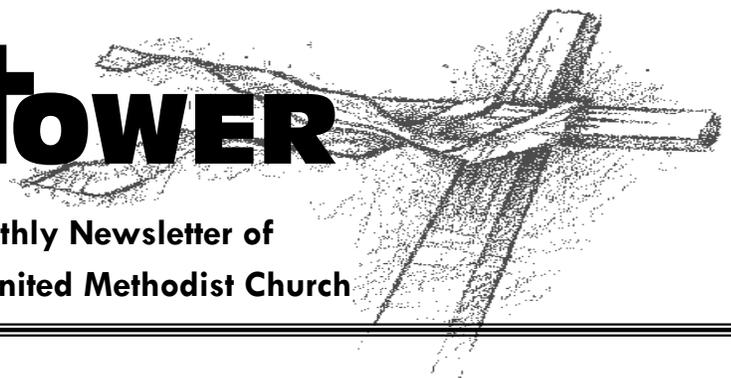




THE TOWER



Monthly Newsletter of
Verona United Methodist Church



July 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

Cori McDaniel
Audio-Visual Coordinator

Phyllis Mauzy
Nursery Director

Ken & Donna Cason
Custodial Staff

From the Pastor

It's summertime! With vacations, gardens, and outdoor activities, it's easy to feel like we're pulled in a hundred different directions. That's why it's important to remember the things that keep our lives centered in Christ: 1) Prayer; 2) Spending time in God's Word; 3) Worshiping with the family of God; 4) Enjoying and loving the people God has placed in our lives. I hope we'll all have a safe and rejuvenating summer—physically, mentally, and spiritually.

I recently checked my email and saw the following message from Pastor Randy Duncan of New Creation UMC in Chesapeake (where I served before coming to Verona). I thought I'd share it with you as a timely reminder that life isn't simply "a cruise to nowhere."

"Where are you going on your summer vacation? Maybe you will be visiting family. Maybe a trip to the beach. Perhaps a trip over seas to another country. Maybe like my family, a trip to Florida and a visit with Mickey Mouse.

If you've ever lived near the ocean maybe you have seen advertisements for "cruises to nowhere." Maybe you've even been on one. People get on board a cruise ship, and when they leave the pier, instead of setting out for a lush island or other exotic location, they go out to sea and travel in circles for a couple of days. Meanwhile they dine on sumptuous meals, lounge around the pool, enjoy shows, and participate in onboard activities.

The problem for a lot of churches is that they operate much too much like those cruises. They're on a trip with no destination, no charted course. They're in a holding pattern, and they occupy their time pursuing pleasures or engaging in activities that don't have any lasting benefit or have significant impact for themselves or others. Meanwhile, they travel in circles. In the end they finish no better than they started. A cruise to nowhere may be a fun way to occupy a few days of vacation time, but it's no way to do church." - Pastor Randy Duncan, New Creation UMC

I believe Pastor Randy's analogy of churches on a "cruise to nowhere" applies not only to congregations but also to individual followers of Christ. Does life have a point, a destination other than the grave? Are our hopes and dreams fixed on God's Kingdom and Heaven? Are we asking God to lift us up "on higher ground"? During our summer vacations and activities, let's not forget the one "in whom we live, move and have our being (Acts 17:28).

APPOINTMENT AS YOUR PASTOR—Every spring United Methodist Churches throughout the United States go through a process of appointing pastors to churches which best fit their gifts and talents. On July 1st Lydia and I will begin our sixth year with the Verona church. I cannot begin to tell you how blessed we feel to be here. Thank you for the love and grace you have shared with our family.

KEEP PRAYING—We have a number of folks in our church family who have been in our prayers for quite some time. Please continue to check the list in our weekly worship bulletin each week and keep them in your prayers.

NEW PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY—I am excited to announce a new Sunday evening Bible study on the book of Ephesians beginning August 21st. I hope you'll take time to read more about it inside this newsletter.

News...

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 July 15

Please submit items to
Shawna Hiner by date
above for the **August**
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



JOIN US!

Verona UMC Fellowship Covered Dish Dinner & Program Sunday, July 3 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Verona UMW

...INCLUDES GAMES FOR THE KIDS!

This event will be held at the Picnic Shelter/ BBQ pit behind the church. Hamburgers and Hot dogs will be provided. Bring your folding chair and a dish to share!

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT 6:30 P.M. will be provided by local musician, Kimball Swanson. Kimball comes to us via a recommendation from Fritz Horisk. Kimball is a fine jazz and blues guitarist, having performed locally in blues festivals, Wednesday Night Open Mic at Queen City Brewery and at various other Waynesboro, Staunton and Augusta County events and organizations.



New Pastor's Bible Study—The book of Ephesians challenges us to see ourselves distinctly as God's children. Because of our new status in Christ, our lives are marked and our actions should reflect that change. This study serves to remind us that we are molded by grace into one family, the family of God.

Join Pastor Bob Weeks at VUMC on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. for this seven-lesson study as he challenges us to read these words with a fresh perspective and engage with each other as people defined by grace. Sign up in one of three ways: (1) email bobweeks@veronaumc.com; 2) fill out the sign-up sheet in the Sunday worship bulletin; 3) call the church office at 248-7777.

The Book of Ephesians

August 21	Introduction
August 28	Purpose, Praise, Prayer and Power
September 11	The One Who Took My Place
September 18	All in the Family
September 25	A Secret Worth Sharing
October 2	Divine Imitation
October 9	More than Conquerors

Scholarship Opportunity for High School Graduates The Verona Ruritans are offering two, \$500 scholarships this fall. They are accepting applications until August 1, 2016. Applications are in the church office or see Fred Wills. Requirements: (1) you must be a high school graduate, (2) you are planning on attending a four year College/University; attending a Community College full time; pursuing an Associate's Degree or attending a Trade/Vocational school in the fall. For further information please contact Fred Wills at fredwillsfarm@gmail.com.

The Nurture Work Area

Between Services Coffee Time

The following groups/teams/classes are scheduled to host Coffee and Fellowship time on Sundays in July and first Sunday in August.



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.

- ◆ July 3 (July 4th wknd) Youth
- ◆ July 10 Rebecca Circle
- ◆ July 17 Open Door
- ◆ July 25 Worship Team
- ◆ July 31 Home Builders
- ◆ August 7 Witness Team

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).

Summer Sermon Series

Come each Sunday to VUMC and Aisle 7 and take a journey through the Book of Acts. Schedule for July:

- July 3– Extravagant Generosity Acts 4:32-37
- July 10– Soliciting Celebrity Acts 5:1-11
- July 17—Youth Sunday
- July 24—Hallelujah Anyhow Acts 6:8-7:60
- July 31—Hymn Sing

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 also leave items at any time during the month.

**Salt & Peppers
 News Corner**

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

The Salt & Peppers Group will be taking a break for the hot month of July. However, the committee will continue to work on our August and September events. Watch for more details on these events in the next newsletter and in the upcoming Sunday morning bulletins.

Also, we want to welcome Sandy McAllister to the Salt & Peppers' planning committee. She is a wonderful Christian servant, and we are glad to have her join us.

For more information on upcoming events, contact:

- Carolyn Anson -294-2061, Faye Wills –234-9410, or
- Sandy McAllister -255-6488



**Verona/Mt. Pisgah/
 Mill Creek
 Softball Team
 Game Schedule**

This year’s softball team includes players from Verona UMC, Mt. Pisgah UMC, and Mill Creek Church of the Brethren. We are playing in the Weyers Cave Ruritan Church Softball League at the Weyers Cave Community Center. Make-up games are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays when necessary. Playoffs will begin on Monday, August 1.

Questions? Call Bob Anson at 294-2062 or 248-5697.

Come out and support our team! We are having a winning season and hope to see you at the ballfield!

- Tuesday, 7/5 8:30 P.M.**
- Wednesday 7/6 7:30 P.M.**
- Monday 7/11 7:30 P.M.**
- Tuesday 7/12 8:30 P.M.**
- Monday 7/18 6:30 P.M.**
- Tuesday 7/19 8:30 P.M.**
- Monday 7/25 7:30 P.M.**
- Tuesday 7/26 7:30 P.M.**

“Where two or three are gathered in His name...”

... there He is also. We invite you to join us for **weekly prayer meetings** for our church on these dates:

Verona Community Center:

Monday, July 11 at 9 AM

Monday, July 18 at 9 AM

Monday, July 25 at 9 AM

In Golden Deeds Room:

Wed., July 6 at 6:30 PM

Wed., July 13 at 6:30 PM

Wed., July 20 at 6:30 PM

Wed., July 27 at 6:30 PM

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need (Acts 4:33-34).



...LEADS A GIVER'S HEART TO JESUS

Online Giving Available It's easy, safe and secure. Go to the church website (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.

Honor or Remember a Loved One

Place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one by using the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex hallway. Indicate the Sunday you want and call 248-7777 by Wednesday of your week to share the type of flower arrangement you prefer and wording for the bulletin. Cost is \$40 payable to VUMC. Write "Altar Flowers" in the memo line and leave in the offering plate or at the office.

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 (will not meet July 4th)

Mondays at 9 a.m., Verona Community Center

Monday Prayer Group (will not meet July 4th)

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

**Saturday
September 24, 2016**

In early September we will begin collecting yard sale items; new and like new items for Silent Auction; pint and quart jars with new lids and rings for apple butter.

If you'd like to volunteer or have ideas for this year's Festival, please contact Lisa Glover at 248-3379 or email lisa_glover_2@hotmail.com



Youth Group is for 6th - 12th grades. BRING A FRIEND!
Our Youth Coordinators are Bill & Carolyn Harlow.

JULY YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

- ◆ **Sunday, July 3, 8:30 a.m.**—Commissioning of Youth Mission Trip to Pennsylvania
- ◆ **Saturday, July 9, 6:00 p.m., BRMH**— The Youth Mission Team going to Pennsylvania will meet to have dinner (please bring a dish to share) and then load the church van.
- ◆ **Sunday, July 10th** - Youth Mission Team leaves for Pennsylvania and will return July 16th.
- ◆ **Sunday, July 17th—Youth Sunday**-the youth will lead worship at the 8:30 a.m. service at Verona UMC and 10:45 am at Aisle 7 Fellowship
- ◆ **Sunday, July 31, 5:30—7:00 p.m., BRMH**—Youth Devotions & Dinner

The Dominican Republic Youth Mission Team had an amazing trip. We worked in the water sanitation factory making cement and pouring the floor, digging dirt in preparation for the aquaponics, prayed in homes in a village close the farm, visited a children's hospital, visited a nursing home, and some attended VBS. Thank you for supporting the team with your prayers and financial support and giving us the opportunity to serve on this very special project which will provide clean water, food to sell to support the farm. The ministry we served is based on Matthew 25:35-36. Carolyn Harlow, Youth Director

THIS WAY
TO FUN

Hey Kids!

Join us for another
**BLAST Activity on
Sunday, July 31,
5:30-7 p.m.**

Outdoor Water Activities.

Dinner provided.

Bring swimsuit, towel,
and change of clothes.

A few parent volunteers are needed.

Please contact Amanda at amandavumc@gmail.com



Cave Quest VBS 2016 was Phenomenal!

Our AMAZING volunteer staff guided 50-60 child participants nightly, in learning that God is the light of the world. I cannot thank our volunteers enough for all of their hard work. This simply cannot be done without each one of you.

Amanda Hall, Director of Children's Ministries

Road Trip Ladies?

Joyce Meyer's "Love Life" Conference

St. Louis, Missouri

Thursday, September 29- Saturday, October 1

- Early Bird Registration - \$59.00
- Featuring Joyce Meyer, Beth Moore, Christine Caine, Kari Jobe, and Lauren Daigle



Ladies, I know it is a haul to get there, but what a line up! Feel free to contact me at 540-421-5707 if you would like additional information. Laura Gurkin

Free Staunton Braves Tickets

It's that time of year! The Staunton Braves baseball team is sponsoring "Church Family Night With the Braves" on July 3. Free tickets are available through our church office—drop by or call 248-7777.

Church Membership Classes

Pastor Bob will be available in the sanctuary from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Sundays to answer your questions about church membership at VUMC. Come with any and all questions, including what we believe about God, salvation, the Bible...., our mission and vision, opportunities for service, baptism and communion, etc. No need to sign up ahead of time—for adults and youth. Questions? Call 280-3350.

About Aisle 7 Fellowship

Aisle 7 Fellowship—meeting at the Verona Community Center on Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m.—is a second campus of Verona UMC. The atmosphere in worship is informal and relaxed, the music contemporary, and the message delivered by Pastor Kevin McMullen with a brief question and answer session after the sermon. There is a wonderful nursery and a gifted worship team leading music. Holy Communion is shared the first Sunday of each month.

We invite you to attend an Aisle 7 worship service and try out their small group Bible Study on Wednesdays at Hardee's of Verona.

For more information, call 248-7777.

News Around The United Methodist Church

Please Pray for UM Pastors and Their Churches

Moving day for churches in the Virginia Conference receiving new pastors is June 29 and the first Sunday for these pastors will be July 3. I hope each of us will keep these pastors and church in our prayers for safe travels and fruitful ministries together.

Virginia to Receive a New Bishop

Bishop Young Jin Cho will retire from active ministry on August 31 after having served four years as the episcopal leader of the Virginia Conference. To honor his service, the conference Committee on Episcopacy is inviting Virginia United Methodists to make contributions to the Bishop's Foundation endowment to fund training and leadership development for clergy and laity in the area of "Spiritual Leadership."

"In the four years he has been leading our conference, Bishop Cho has consistently emphasized the need for increased prayer and a commitment to spiritual disciplines." said Shirley Cauffman, Committee on Episcopacy chair, "so it seems appropriate to honor him by continuing an emphasis on spiritual disciplines through the work of the Bishops Foundation."

To make a donation to honor Bishop Cho, send a check payable to "Virginia United Methodist Conference," earmarked for "Bishop Cho Donation" to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

Kevin McMullen Receives License

Aisle 7 Fellowship Campus Pastor Kevin McMullen recently became a Licensed Local Pastor in The United Methodist Church. After completing Licensing School at Virginia Wesleyan College, Kevin attended the Virginia UMC Annual Conference in Roanoke June 17-19. During the conference his licensing, along with 30 other new pastors, was approved by the hundreds of ordained pastors in attendance.

Licensed Local Pastors have many of the same pastoral responsibilities as ordained pastors. Kevin will eventually complete seminary and will enter the process of becoming an ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church.

Bob Weeks Named to Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

VUMC Pastor Bob Weeks has been named to the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The Board is responsible for supporting persons responding to God's call to professional ministry as an elder in full connection, deacon in full connection, associate member, licensed local pastor, diocesan minister, or certified professional in a variety of Christian ministries.

The Board, working with District Committees on Ordained Ministry, reviews the educational and personal qualifications of candidates, including personal interviews, from certified candidacy to ordination or licensing. The Board works collaboratively with the Cabinet in a number of areas to assist in advancing the vision of the Virginia Conference.

July 3: "Food Pantry Sunday"

Every week our food pantry, located in a house behind the church building, supports families in need. We encourage you to bring donations of non-perishable food and personal hygiene items. Currently needs: baby wipes, black pepper, canned fruit, plastic bags, toiletry items (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap and deodorant). Boxes are located at church entrances to receive donations. When making financial donations be sure to note on your donation "VUMC Food Pantry."

Looking for Family Council Chair

This person(s) leads the Family Council team in taking care of organizing meals in the church including breakfast on Easter morning, breakfast on Memorial Sunday, the Church Picnic in the fall, and the Homecoming Sunday covered dish dinner. There are many people on this committee to help with food preparation—we are looking for someone to take the lead. Fred Wills will make sure the tables and chairs are set up for each event. Please contact the office at 248-7777.



Youth Room Taking Shape

Electrical outlets were installed recently in the youth center along with a projector and sound system. The Youth Room, located in the back of the Verona Community Center, has air hockey, foos ball, corn hole, basketball, and other activities available Monday through Friday, 8:30 until 5:30 during the summer. Come in and cool off, hang out, and have a good time. Be sure to check in at the café when you arrive.

Community Center Thank You's

- Thank you to the North Coalter Food Lion for their donation of five cases of water bottles!
- Thank you to the many anonymous donors of snacks for the café
- Thank you to all the volunteers who come Monday through Saturday from 8:30 to 5:30 to serve on three-hour shifts in the café.
- Thank you to Goldie Shifflett and Pleasant View Lutheran for the gift of \$250 in seed money for the youth room in the community center. We've purchased basketball backboards with the money to be installed soon.

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.
- Cafe open 8:30-noon on Saturdays. Groups may reserve rooms from 8:30 a.m. until 9 p.m.
- Volunteer shifts for the cafe are 3 hours: 8:30-11:30; 11:30-2:30; 2:30-5:30. Volunteers also needed for Thurs. evenings and Sat. mornings. Contact Lydia Weeks (lydspot@yahoo.com or 886-1460).

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 for information or to volunteer



VERONA UMW



Remember your Prayer Partner

Dates to remember:

- July 3 – Verona UMW Fellowship Covered Dish and program 5:00 – 7:30
- July 29 – 31 Mission Encounter (School of Christian Mission) at Randolph-Macon College. Early Bird registrations are due by June 27th. (registration forms on VAUMW.org web site)
- August 14th – UMW Sunday, Rev. Lynn Litchfield from Grace Inside Prison Ministries, will be our speaker

Esther Circle—meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm in homes – Pat Foster, Chair

Rebecca Circle—meets 2nd Sat., 10 am at Church (except July & August), Gayle Meeks, Chair

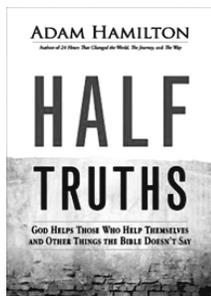
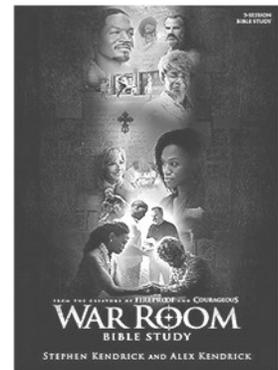
Not a Member of the United Methodist Women?

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

From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian—July 2016 Featured Items:

We have two new Bible studies in the free library located at the Harrisonburg UMC District Office, 40 Southgate Ct #101, Harrisonburg:

War Room Bible Study (and full movie DVD and hardcover book) by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick. *War Room Bible Study Book* includes 5 scriptural lessons and movie clips found in the new Kendrick Brothers' movie *War Room*. This short series provides a variety of heart-felt and/or humorous movie scenes and Bible study sessions that can be used in a corporate church message series or a small group Bible study setting. Session topics include: Dealing with Spiritual Lukewarmness, Christian Accountability, Grasping Grace and the Gospel, Engaging in Spiritual Warfare, and Trusting God in Prayer.



Half Truths by Adam Hamilton, 2016 (DVD, Leaders and student books, and Youth Leaders and Student books). Adam Hamilton explores popular sayings that miss the point. They are simple phrases: "*God helps those who help themselves,*" "*Love the sinner, hate the sin,*" and others. They sound Christian-like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. Discover the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture.

Keep checking "Free Books Shelf" at the District Office- there have been additions and will be more over the next few weeks! Thanks, Sue (thefolly568@gmail.com)



Helping Hands Ministry

There 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. If you'd like to learn how to do something, sign up with a group and help out. Questions? **Call Doug May at 241-5605.**

Ways to Serve on Sundays

If you are interested in becoming involved in one of the following ministries, call our Office Administrator Shawna Hiner in the church office at 248-7777:

- Ushers: Collect morning offerings; assist guests with seating; be emergency contact for nursery
- Greeters: Greet guests at entryways and hand out worship bulletins
- Audio/Visual Team: Operate the soundboard and PowerPoint slides
- Counters: Assist in the counting and recording of offerings.
- Communion Assistants: Serving communion on first Sundays. All church members are eligible.

VUMC Chancel Choir News



The choir will take the summer off and return for weekly rehearsals on September 7.

If you are interested in providing special music a Sunday during the summer please contact Joy Tinsley at 540-487-0410.



Summer Camp at Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries

Summer Camp programs (day camp and overnight) for children & youth designed to:
Create a Christian environment in an outdoors setting conducive to personal and group experiences with God to learn His will for our lives.

Visit the website for more information:
overlookretreatandcampministries.weebly.com

or call the camp office to register today: 540-269-2267
BROCHURES AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

Once you have attended your week at camp you can submit your receipt to the VUMC church office for reimbursement of half the cost!



VUMC Honey Bee Ministry

Honey from our church's bee hives will be extracted on July 23rd and be available for \$8 per pound. Proceeds support our church's missions. Want to learn more about how bees live and produce a crop of honey? Contact Pastor

Bob for a tour of the bee yard located in the field on the south side of our church property.

Special Sundays in July

July 3 Youth Commissioning for Pennsylvania Mission Trip

July 17 Youth Sunday—8:30 & 11
(Celebration at A7F after worship)

July 31 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing



Barbara Breeden	Gene Tutwiler
Caroline McFaden	Thelma Smith
Glen Sutton	Dot Hess
Roger Moats	Patsy Dastoli
Louise Roadcap	Willie Lockridge
Frances Johnson	Donald Smith
Ray Smith	Ronald Smith
Charles Cook	Margaret Helmick
Larry Staples	Jean May
Harle Jackson	Inez Fultz
Joy Tinsley	Howard Rexrode
Bill Welliver	Elijah Smith
Jack Wine	Don McFaden
Kitty Wine	Jeff Spiggle
Bobby Breeden	
Evelyn Kirby	
David McAllister	
Fred Foster	

Our Christian Love and Sympathy are extended to Amber Wagner in the recent loss of her father, John Lloyd Kelso, Jr.

Congratulations to Josh and Tanya Fitzpatrick on the birth of their son, Cooper Thomas born June 1st. Proud sisters, Isabelle and Abby. Proud grandparents, Doug and Donna May. Proud great-grandmother, Jean May.

***Hope** is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a 'wish' (as in I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made.—RC Sproul*

Notes of Sincere Appreciation

Thank you for your support of the Staunton Choral Society—from hosting the Annual Hymn Festival, to printing of programs, to back-up rehearsal space. Thank you so much.
The Staunton Choral Society

Thank you very much for the gift you gave me for graduations. I will enjoy using the gift card. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Jordan Shifflett

Thank you for the Amazon gift cards for graduation! They are greatly appreciated. I'm always shopping on Amazon, so they'll definitely get used.
Jenny VanLear

Dear Church Family,

I recently sat on a stage in Roanoke with Pastor Kevin McMullen. Several thousand United Methodist pastors and delegates to Annual Conference packed the arena. In a few moments we would be brought forward as it was announced that Verona UMC had planted a new church—Aisle 7 Fellowship.

Before we were introduced, though, the Bishop announced that there were nine United Methodist churches in the Virginia Conference that no longer existed. Nine once vital congregations had decided to close their doors. Years of decline and stagnation had sealed their fate.

I knew several of those churches personally. I had walked through their doors and met their members. Needless to say, it was a bittersweet moment for me to sit there and see the photos of those churches roll by on the screen, even as we were preparing to have the Conference officially recognize the birth of Aisle 7 Fellowship.

Nine churches closed that day. Only two were born.

Our church in Verona made a decision last August that we would fight against the tide of decline that has led to the disappearance of so many Christian fellowships. It was a bold and faithful decision to trust in God's leading and providence. It was a commitment that will require years of sacrifice and hard work. It was a declaration that we would "not go silently into that good night."

I want to thank each and every member of our church family for your faithfulness to the message of the Gospel. I do not know the specifics of our future. I do not know if one day our church will be among those whose closing is announced at an annual conference. But I do know that I am humbled to be the pastor of a church that takes God's Word seriously, trusts in God's saving power, and longs to make an eternal difference in the Kingdom of God.

*Thank you with all my heart,
Pastor Bob Weeks*

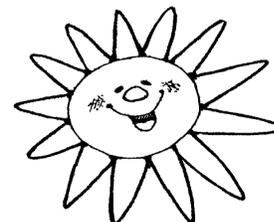
Verona UMC Calendar of Events - July 2016

7/3	5:00pm	Church Covered Dish Dinner & Program <i>-outside weather permitting</i>	7/24	8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
	8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141	7/25	9:00am	Prayer Meeting, Community Center
7/4		OFFICE CLOSED FOR JULY 4	7/27	6:00pm	TOPS, RM 143AB
7/5	7:00pm	Trustee's Meeting, RM 146		6:30pm	Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds
7/7	6:00pm	TOPS, RM 143AB		7:00pm	A7F Bible Study at Hardee's in Verona
	6:30pm	Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds		8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
	7:00pm	A7F Bible Study at Hardee's in Verona	7/31	5:30pm	Youth Devotions & Dinner, BRMH
	8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141		5:30pm	BLAST-Children's Water Activities, Outside
7/9	10:00am	Rebecca Circle. RM 146		8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
	6:00pm	Youth Mission Team-Dinner/Pack Trailer, BRMH			
7/10	4:00pm	NA, RM 146			
	8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141			
7/11	9:00am	Prayer Meeting, Community Center			
	7:00pm	Prayer Meeting, Community Center			
	7:00pm	SPRC Meeting, RM 146			
	7:00pm	Daycare Board Meeting			
7/13	6:00pm	TOPS, RM 143AB			
	6:30pm	Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds			
	7:00pm	A7F Bible Study at Hardee's in Verona			
	8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141			
7/17		YOUTH SUNDAY			
	8:30am	Youth Service at VUMC			
	10:45am	Youth Service at A7F, Community Center			
	8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141			
7/18	9:00am	Prayer Meeting, Community Center			
	7:00pm	Prayer Meeting, Community Center			
	7:00pm	Esther Circle			
7/19	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting, RM 146			
7/20	6:00pm	TOPS, RM 143AB			
	6:30pm	Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds			
	7:00pm	A7F Bible Study at Hardee's in Verona			
	8:00pm	AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141			
7/21	7:00pm	Verona Ruritans, BRMH (Youth serving)			

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.



	7/8	Wesley Harris	7/18	Louise Fultz	7/25	Tom Sailer
	7/9	Roz Carper		Bill Mayle	7/26	Pat Huff
		Barbara Dedrick		Ray Smith		Dennis Porter
	7/10	Sally VanLear	7/19	Logan Bean		Tom Upton
7/1		Shawna Hiner	7/20	Ramona Jackson	7/27	Stephanie Wiseman
	7/11	Betty Fitzgerald		Corieta Smith	7/28	Peggy Tutwiler
		Brian Gingerich		Teresa Blum		Jean May
7/2	7/12	Linda Smith		Betty Lamm		Jed Alger
7/3		Corny Wills	7/21	Gail Smith	7/29	Mindy Hickman
7/5		Stephanie Sackett		Lindsay Shifflett	7/30	James Pugh
	7/14	Rebecca Austin		Greg VanLear	7/31	RC Moyers
		Jessica Blosser		Pattie Smiley		
		Chris Broce	7/22	Doris Long		
7/6		Justin Rexrode		Peggy Horisk		
	7/15	Rita Austin		Mark Chestnut		
7/7	7/16	Brian Myers	7/23	Michael Dawson		
	7/17	Dustin Dedrick	7/24	Eddie Lambert		





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

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

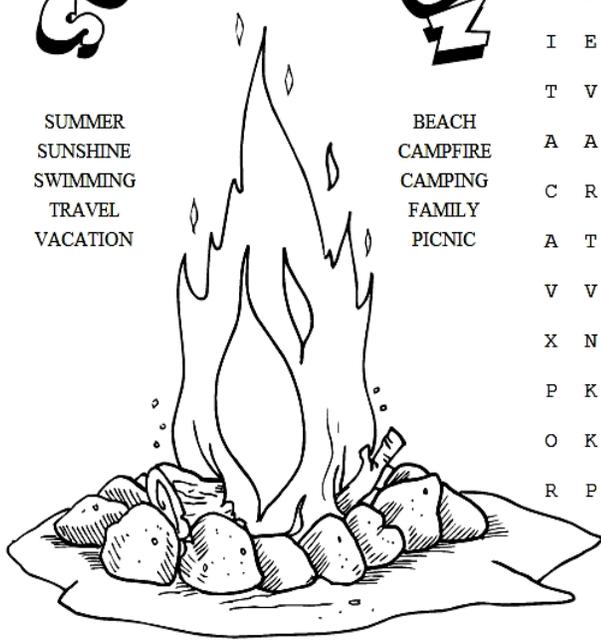
Sunday Schedule:

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.

SUMMER FUN

SUMMER
 SUNSHINE
 SWIMMING
 TRAVEL
 VACATION

BEACH
 CAMPFIRE
 CAMPING
 FAMILY
 PICNIC



WORD SEARCH

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

