



THE TOWER



Monthly Newsletter of
Verona United Methodist Church

Combined
December/January
Edition

VERONA UM CHURCH & AISLE 7 FELLOWSHIP CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Bob Weeks
Senior Pastor

Rev. Shawna Hiner
Campus Pastor
Aisle 7 Fellowship

Jennifer Cook
Office Administrator

Sheila Fair
Treasurer

Joy Tinsley
Music Director

Shelley Chandler
Worship Leader A7F

Linda Toler
Organist

Rhonda Reeser
Pianist

Amanda Hall
Director Children's
Ministries

Bill, Carolyn Harlow
Directors Youth
Ministries

Phyllis Mauzy
Nursery Director

Ken & Donna Cason
Custodial Staff

FROM THE PASTOR

It was the best Christmas Eve of my life.

It happened in the year 2000 during my third year as a pastor, serving three small churches in south-central Virginia. Our family lived in Scuffletown, a place of tobacco and timber where I quickly learned that not waving to an oncoming car was a capital offense. I led three Christmas Eve services that year, the last at my congregation in the small town of Phenix.

It was a cold, clear evening and the services were beautiful, with glowing candlelight and those hymns of Christmas that somehow always sound more sacred on Christmas Eve. I remember walking out of my last service of the evening, a half-hour or so after midnight, with a feeling of genuine peace. As I walked down the church steps, I spied a beat up old station wagon parked across the street. Through the side windows I could see boxes and clothes piled up. And through the front windshield I saw three adults, their heads nodded in sleep.

This was an unusual sight in Phenix. Our church building was just a block off Route 40 but most travelers flew through the town without stopping. I walked over to the station wagon and nervously knocked on the window. The startled older man in the driver's seat rolled his window down and I asked if they needed help. In the front driver's seat sat a middle-aged woman who I assumed was his wife and a younger adult male in the back seat.

"No, but thanks" he replied. "We're waiting for the sun to come up to see if anyone can help us with our car. It broke down and we have nowhere else to go."

Now I have to tell you, pastors can be as suspicious and overly cautious as any other person in this world when it comes to helping strangers. I quickly tabulated my response options:

"Well, God bless you. I hope you find some help tomorrow." That was one possible response.

Or, "Listen, I wish I could help you but my family is waiting at home and I need to join them."

Or, "Merry Christmas! Can I pray with you?"

Or, the one that came out of my mouth before I could think things through clearly: "Listen, I'm the pastor of the church across the street. You're welcome to come in out of the cold for the night. We have a fellowship hall you can sleep in."

The family (I later found out the younger man was their autistic adult son) gathered up some blankets and pillows from their car and followed me in. I called my wife Lydia and explained that I wouldn't be coming home. She said it was the right thing to do.

As I settled the family in and went upstairs to my office and locked the door, I was still a bit wary. I laid down on the hard floor and tried to sleep with my head on a stack of books.

As the sun came up on Christmas morning, I detected the smell of bacon. I wandered down to the fellowship hall, still in the clothes I had preached in the night before, and found the mother, father, and son sitting at a table with bacon, eggs and biscuits, food they had picked up from a small country store just down the street that had opened early on Christmas morning.

There was a fourth plate set for me.

As we shared breakfast I learned more about their story. A beloved preacher who had once served their home church in West Virginia had passed away and they had made the trek to attend his funeral in North Carolina, even though they knew their car might not make it. They were still a few hours from home but were sure God had led them to our church that night.

We finished breakfast and I pulled out a twenty dollar bill from my wallet. They refused the money when I offered it to them, but I insisted that no one should refuse a gift on Christmas Day. The owner of Mike's Tire located around the corner from our church fixed their car that morning and I thought that was the end of the story.

Then I received a card from the family a few weeks later. They wrote simply, "We arrived home safely. Thank you for sharing God's love with us on Christmas Eve. We wanted to give something to your church to show our thanks." And there was my \$20 bill.

It is so easy to jump to the conclusion that every stranger we meet has an agenda. Suspicions arise, our antennae go up, and we refuse to let our guard down. But on that Christmas Eve, I received an important reminder from a family sleeping in a beat-up old station wagon. That God still wants us to hear the message proclaimed by the angels on that long ago Christmas Eve—"Peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

Bob

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
January 21**

Please submit items to
Jennifer Cook by date
above for the November
Newsletter. By phone,
248-7777 or email,
jennifercook@
veronaumc.com

If you would a copy of
Church Council Minutes
please contact Jennifer in
the church office:

248-7777 or
jennifercook@
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

New Time for Pastor's Prayer Meeting

The Monday morning Pastor's Prayer Meeting has been moved to Wednesday mornings 9-10 a.m. at the Verona Community Center starting November 28th. You are invited to come as often as you are able.

Blue Christmas Service December 16

Join us for a special "Blue Christmas Service"
on Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Christmas can be a painful time for those who experiencing their first Christmas without a beloved family member who has recently died; and for those still struggling with painful memories and past disappointments. We invite you to join us in a service of sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn and struggle - an opportunity to allow God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

The short service, led by Pastor Bob, will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

Blue Christmas Devotional Books Available

"Not all Christmases are white; some are blue," Todd Outcalt writes in his new book. Blue Christmas is a free devotional book for the 28 days of Advent and Christmas Day. Each devotion includes a scripture selection, meditation, prayer, and suggested Advent action. Your free copy is available through the church office or Sunday mornings in the sanctuary after worship.

**Apple Tree Project Helps Area Children**

Once again our church is participating in the Apple Tree Project. This is a ministry that provides Christmas presents to area children of incarcerated offenders. There will be an Apple tree in the Narthex area by Nov. 4 that you can get your apple from. These unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by December 2nd.

Celebration Singers at VUMC POSTPONED

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Celebration Singers concert at VUMC scheduled for November 18 has been postponed until early 2019.

Staunton Choral Society Christmas Concerts

"Sing We All" A free-will offering will benefit the Society. They will perform on December 1, 2018 at **Calvary United Methodist Church in Stuarts Draft at 7pm** and on December 2, 2018 at **Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton at 7pm.**

Looking Ahead to Christmas

Dec. 2 - Children's Christmas Program (6pm)

Dec. 9 - Choir Christmas Program (6pm)

Dec. 16 - Cookies with Santa at VCC (2pm)

Dec. 16 - Blue Christmas Service - (4 pm)

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services A7F (5pm) /
VUMC (7:30pm & 11:00pm)





The Nurture Work Area

Between Services Coffee Time

The following groups/teams/classes are scheduled to host Coffee and Fellowship time on Sundays in September. Information and instructions posted on back of first cabinet door in the kitchen. Questions/concerns? Contact the Church Office.



Dec. 2 - Open Door	Jan. 6 - Home Builders
Dec. 9 - Worship Team	Jan. 13 - Witness Team
Dec. 16 - Petal Pushers	Jan. 20 - Youth
Dec. 23 - Esther Circle	Jan. 27 - Rebecca Circle
Dec. 30 - Seekers	

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 the Church Office at 248-7777.

Altar Flower Donations Sign up to donate flowers on any Sunday. Donate in honor or memory of a loved one and help beautify the sanctuary. Call church office at 248-7777 for further information.

Snacks for Community Center Caf 

We are always in need of snacks for the Verona Community Center Caf . Little Debbie's products, small bags of chips, small packages of cookies, energy bars, peanut butter crackers, etc. are always popular. Just bring by the caf  Monday through Friday or drop in the container in our church's Donation Center.



Food Pantry Donations

URGENT: Assist local families in need!

On the First Sunday of each month we have a special collection for items for our church food pantry. Collection boxes are located at the Donation Center in the main church entrance and lower entryway. You can leave items at any time during the month.

WE CAN ESPECIALLY USE:

Food Pantry Hours:

Every Tuesday: 9am-11am
2nd & 4th Thursday: 6pm-7pm

Salt & Peppers News Corner

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

Please join us for lunch at
Kathy's Restaurant on
Thursday, January 24 at
11:30 am. Let us know by
Monday, 1/21 if you plan to
attend. Please let us know if
you will need a ride.

For more info. on upcoming events, contact:

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

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.

Questions? **Call Doug May at 241-5605.**

Ways to Serve at VUMC

It may be assisting as an usher, greeter, Scripture Reader or AV operator during worship... or working with our landscape beautification team, The Petal Pushers... or teaching children's Sunday School... or in a dozen other ways. Call the Church Office today for more info on how to get involved—248-7777.

Join a Verona UMC Prayer Group & Experience the Power of Prayer

Pastor's Monday Morning Prayer Group Mondays at 5 am, Verona Community Center

Wednesday Evening Prayer Group Wednesdays at 2 pm, next to Choir Room



Community Center Report

Since it's opening in 2015, the Community Center has served over 33,000 people

- The Verona Community Center Café had 632 guests in September 2018, an average of 24 guests each day the café was open. This exceeded the monthly goal by 182 guests. Forty-four events held at the community center during September totaled 917 guests.
- To date, the Community Center has exceeded the previous year's guest and event totals by 17%
- Showers were used 42 times in September, bringing the total number used since the showers opened in May to 132. Laundry facilities were used 58 times in September, bringing the total for the year to 193.

ORGANIZATION The community center is now incorporated and has filed for non-profit status with the federal government, a step which will allow for donations to the center to be tax-deductible without going through the church. It will also increase the center's eligibility for certain grants.

SUPPORT Your financial support is crucial to our on-going service within the Verona community. Send donations made out to Verona Community Center to P.O. Box 780, Verona, VA 24401

Volunteer Opportunities Is God nudging you to give back to your community? Being a host at VCC can be a rewarding and fun way to be in ministry with VUMC/A7F. Shifts are 3 hours, M-F, with an occasional need for 1.5 hour shifts. Some shifts available on weekends for events. Contact Lydia at Lydspot@yahoo.com.

Numbers that Matter thru 11/25/18

Sunday School (VUMC) Avg. Attendance	92
Worship Avg. 2018—VUMC/A7F	204/39
Worship —VUMC/A7F	169/49

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS (VUMC only)*

General Fund Weekly Need	8064
General Fund Weekly Avg. 2018	7498

*Does not include designated gifts including the Community Center, Aisle 7 Fellowship, Food Pantry, Building and Memorial Funds, Youth Missions, etc.

Help Process VUMC Offerings

We currently have a total of six counters (three teams) and would love to have at least one more team—two more teams would be great!

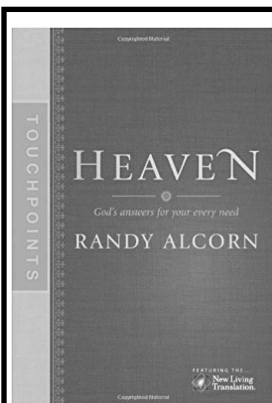
If you are interested in hearing more about this volunteer opportunity please contact Donna May at donnawm@outlook.com or 540-448-4220.

online
GIVING
easy. fast. effective

To set up your account visit:

<http://veronaumc.net/online-giving/>
Contact Jennifer in the church office at 248-7777 for if you have questions or need assistance.

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.



What About Heaven? A new Sunday Evening Bible Study with Pastor Bob
Each Sunday evening in January from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Touchpoints - Heaven, based on Randy Alcorn's best-selling book *Heaven*, puts the answers to many of your questions about Heaven, eternity, and the New Earth at your fingertips. Then, arranged by topic, *Touchpoints - Heaven* provides simple, clear-cut, biblically based answers to such questions as, Will animals inhabit the New Earth? Will we sleep in Heaven? Will we all have beautiful bodies? And Will we work in Heaven?

Register for class by calling 248-7777 or sign up with bulletin tear-off sheet
Cost for class book is \$5 (can be paid at first class). All are welcome!



Church Council Members - Mark Your Calendars

Our first council meeting of 2019 will be held in Room 146 on Tuesday, January 15 at 7 p.m. All new and re-elected 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 2019, are available from the church office.

January 2019 Committee, Council & Work Area Meetings

(list of committees and members on page 6)

- Monday, January 7, 7 p.m., Room 146—SPRC
- Tuesday, January 8, 7 p.m., Room 146—Trustees
- Tuesday, January 15, 7 p.m., Room 146—Church Council
- Thursday, January 24, 6:30 p.m., Room 146—Joint Work Areas (Nurture, Outreach, Witness, Age-Level)

Thank You to Our Church Officers & Leaders

Our 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 2019.

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 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>

2019 Stewardship Reflections

As we near the end of 2018, we praise God for faithful stewardship and challenging missions. While our General Fund giving is about 5% below the budgeted goal, our spending is also below budget at approximately the same rate. Meanwhile, we continued to have net positive gains through our investment in the United Methodist Foundation to help offset any shortfalls.

Our second campus, Aisle 7 Fellowship, is at a critical time in its development as financial support from The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church has ended and salary support from The Harrisonburg District will end in 2019. The good news is that attendance and giving have substantially increased since July 1st when Pastor Shawna Hiner began her appointment to A7F. Designated gifts to Aisle 7 are always appreciated.

The Verona Community Center has grown in the numbers of persons and groups using the facility and is rapidly becoming a fixture in the community, serving every facet of the population, including the homeless and those in critical need of a place to find a warm coffee, a hot shower, a place to wash clothes, and, of course, friendship. The community center was incorporated in 2018 and hopes to have 501-c3 non-profit status by January of 2019. Verona UMC continues to donate \$1,000/month to the community center and supply the majority of volunteers.

I would encourage groups in our church to consider the Center and Aisle 7 as a mission projects so that they can continue to grow and serve. Steady growth in your support will allow them to continue to grow.

When we consider every part of our church's ministry—VUMC, Aisle 7 Fellowship, the Community Center, and VUMC Daycare—our church's impact on the Verona community is tremendous. With faithful, prayerful giving, we can continue to grow in our service to others in Jesus' name, to the glory of God. Thank you all! -Pastor Bob Weeks

VUMC 2019 Church Leadership

Approved by the Verona UMC Nov. 11, 2018 Charge Conference. Bold-print names are new to their positions. 2-digit numbers after certain names represent year service began. 4-digit years after names on Trustees, SPRC, and Lay Leadership committees represent end of 3-year-term

CHURCH COUNCIL

Doug May, Chairperson -17 / Bob Weeks, Pastor / Shawna Hiner, Associate Pastor A7F Campus / Chad Brown Lay Leader -14 / _____ Chair of Trustees to be selected / Sandy Rankin, Chair of Finance -16 / Joy Utberg, President of UMW -17 / Doug May, President of UMM / Ruth Wright, Membership Secretary -14 / Ruth Wright, Nurture Chair -17/ Ray Patterson, Chair Outreach Ministries -18 / Corkie Collie, Chair of Witness -14 / Doug MacTavish, Lay

FOUR CORE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

TRUSTEES

Fred Wills 2021
Ron Jennings 2021
Myrtle Lambert 2021
Larry Leonard 2020
Ron McAlliser 2020
Jeff Harris 2020
Dennis Garber 2019
Charles Cook 2019
Steve Sutton 2019
Wayne Smith 2018
Bernard Bean 2018

FINANCE

Sandy Rankin, Chairperson
Chuck Wright, Assistant Chair
Sheila Fair, Treasurer
Lisa Shifflett Floyd, Financial Secretary
Chad Brown, Lay Leader
Doug MacTavish, Lay Member Annual Conf
Irene Sutton, Lay Member Annual Conf.
Doug May, Chairperson of Council
Wayne Smith, Trustees Chair
Nancy Coiner, Chair of SPRC
Larry Wagoner, At-Large Member
Mary Jane Staples, At-Large Member
Counters: Carolyn Harlow, Sandy Rankin,
Patty Propst, Donna May

SPRC

Joyce Brubeck 2021
Bernard Bean 2021
Kerri Fitzgerald 2021
Mike Utberg 2020
Doris Wright 2020
Nancy Coiner (Chair) 2020
Steve Sutton 2019
Barb Alexander 2019
Amanda Forbes 2019
Kim Chandler 2018
Helen Sullivan 2018
Janet McAllister 2018
Chad Brown, Lay Leader
Lay Members Annual Conf

LAY LEADERSHIP

Rev. Bob Weeks Chairperson
Larry Wills 2021
Kim Chandler 2021
Don Jennings 2021
Wanda Broce 2020
Bee Meyers 2020
Gail Smith 2020
Mel Holst 2019
Steve Reeser 2019
Scott VanLear 2019
Fred Lackey 2018
Irene Sutton 2018
Tammy Shifflett 2018
Chad Brown, Lay Leader
Lay Members Annual Conf.

THE FOUR MINISTRY WORK AREAS

NURTURE

Ruth Wright, Chairperson -17
Dick Watson, Spiritual Formation & Growth -13
Susan Allen, Christian Education Coordinator -15
Chuck Wright, Sunday Sch. Superintendent -16
Scott VanLear, Asst. Sun. Sch. Superintendent -16
_____, Decorating Coord.
Amanda Hall, Children's Ministries Director
Lydia Weeks, Wedding Coordinator
Joy Tinsley, Choir Director

WITNESS

Corkie Collie, Chairperson -14
Becky Reeser -14
Ginger Blum, Webmaster -17
Carla Harris -14
Larry Propst -17
Lisa Jennings, Camp Ministries -18

OUTREACH

Ray Patterson, Chairperson -18
Doug May, Missions Coordinator -15
Janet McAllister, Health & Welfare Coord. -18
Curtis & Shirley Carter,
Becky Woolfrey, Connexions Card Ministry
Barbara Shuler, Newborn Ministry
Pat Forester -13, Danny Link -16 Food Pantry Coord.

AGE-LEVEL

Jennifer Cook, Chairperson -19 / Amanda Hall, Children's Coord. (staff position) / Carolyn & Bill Harlow, Youth Coord. (staff position)
Phyllis Mauzy, Nursery Coordinator / Lilly Cash, Bereavement Meals -09 / Mel Holst, Asst. Hospitality -10 / Barbara Shuler, Asst Hospitality
Faye Wills, Carolyn Anson, Salt & Peppers / Jean Bean, Apple Dumplings -14 / Carolyn & Bill Harlow, Sr. UMY Leaders (staff position)
Joy Utberg, UMW President -17 / Doug May, UMM President -11

DAYCARE / CHILD PROTECTION / DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE

DAYCARE COMMITTEE

Officers (selected by the Daycare Committee).
Steve Sutton / Betty Sutton / Janet Myers / Gayle Meeks
Larry Wagoner / Teresa Blum / Rhonda Reeser / Dennis Garber / Linda Garber
Parent Representatives: Davian Gale / Kristen Shreckhise / Stacey Wilson

Dana McCray – Director
Donna Cason
Sheila Fair - Treasurer

DELEGATES TO VA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Doug MacTavish, Lay Member of AC -15
Irene Sutton, Lay Member of AC -19

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Teresa Blum, Chairperson -11
Nancy Coiner, SPRC Chair
Bob Weeks, Pastor
Amanda Hall, Children's Coordinator
Carolyn Harlow, Youth Director
Dana McCray, Daycare Director


**VERONA
UMC**

YOUTH GROUP

December Youth Calendar

- **Sunday, December 2nd** Bowling— 3-6pm
- **Sunday, December 9th**
Noon-1pm stick skit drama practice at Aisle7
5:30-7pm youth meeting at VCC
- **Sunday, December 16th**
8:30&10:45 service stick skit at Verona and Aisle7
5:30-7pm supper & Chinese Christmas gift exchange. Bring a \$10 wrapped Christmas gift.

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.*

January Youth Calendar

- **Sunday January 6th** 5:30-7pm youth devotions and supper
- **Sunday January 13th** 5pm mission meeting / 5:30-7pm youth devotions and supper
- **Sunday January 20th** 5:30-7pm youth devotions and supper
- **Sunday January 27th** 5:30-7 youth devotions and supper

Youth News

Super Bowl Luncheon The youth mission team are hosting a Super Bowl luncheon 10:30am-1pm Sunday February 3rd 2019. Proceeds will benefit our 2019 mission trip.

2019 Youth mission trip to Winchester, KY June 22-29th 2019. All youth ages 12+ are welcome to come on the mission trip. We will be partnering with Group Workcamps this year; we will be serving in the Winchester community with painting and repairs for those in need. We will have devotions during the day and at night plus morning and evening program which are geared to the youth. Please let Bill or Carolyn know if you are interested in attending.

We sold 41 pumpkin rolls! Thanks to everyone who baked and bought pumpkin rolls. Proceeds benefited youth missions.

Children's News

Children's Christmas Program—"A Red Letter Christmas"—Sunday, December 2 at 6 pm. Refreshments served afterward. There will be a full rehearsal for children on Sunday, December 2 @10am (Sunday School Hour)

Christmas Chancel Choir Program—December 9 @ 6pm. Children need to dress in Christmas attire and be at the church at 5:30. They will perform two songs.

Cookies with Santa—Sunday, December 16 @2pm. Children are invited to enjoy cookie decorating, games, crafts, and visit with Santa during this fun filled event.

BLAST will take a break from Dec. 9 - Feb. 3. We will resume activities on Feb. 3 at 5pm.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the "Light the Night" event. We had over 300 people. It was wonderful!



Greetings from Pastor Shawna

The Advent Season is upon us – what a wonderful time of year. Aisle 7 Fellowship continues to see God doing amazing things.

We prayed for a Worship Leader and he provided Shelley Chandler and her friend Sandy Bazan who plays the keyboard. We are also blessed to have their husbands, Gerry Chandler and John Bazan who help with AV and Sound. If you haven't visited us, I encourage you to come by and worship with us.

We had a special Fellowship Sunday on November 25 where we gathered together to Worship God in Song, we put together 25 Care Bags that will be handed out at the Community Center. Some items include: toboggan (hand crocheted); socks, water, toothbrush, toothpaste, snacks, small fleece blanket, and a colored picture from the children. We are excited about this mission project. Our time of Worship also included testimony from several people from A7F. We ended our time together with a Soup & Sandwich meal. We had a wonderful time and to see how God is moving in the lives of so many warms my heart.

We participated in the Staunton Christmas Parade, where we handed out candy and brochures. The Children's Christmas play is Dec. 2; the youth will perform a Stick Skit Drama on December 16 and we will have Cookies with Santa from 2-pm on Dec. 16 at the Community Center. We are partnering with VUMC, Verona Ruritans, and New Directions this year. If you have any interest in helping with this event, please contact me for more information.

Pastor Bob, Pastor Drew Ridder with Living Stone Church of the Nazarene and myself will work together on the 5pm Children's Christmas Eve Service at the Community Center. We are excited to partner with Pastor Drew and his congregation to have a meaningful Christmas Eve service that our children, their families and our community will experience the precious love of Christ.

We hope to have another Small Group start in January in addition to our Wednesday night group. I am excited to see how God will use Aisle 7 in 2019 to reach out into our community in new and powerful ways!

I want to thank Pastor Bob and the wonderful members of Verona UMC who continue to support me and Aisle 7 in many ways. You have been so influential in my life and given me powerful examples of stepping out in faith and trusting God.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Shawna
430-5462/shawnahiner@vaumc.org



Join us for a fun afternoon at the Verona Community Center (next to Dollar General)
We will decorate Christmas cookies, play games, make crafts and, of course, visit with Santa!
All ages are invited to wear their favorite pajamas as they wish. Bring a camera to take your own photos with Santa.

The cost is **FREE** but donations are appreciated.

Sponsored by: Aisle 7 Fellowship, New Directions, Verona United Methodist & the Verona Ruritan Club

For more info., please contact Amanda at 280-1455

On Sunday, December 16th 2-4 p.m. For All Ages



Apple Dumplings Report

The Apple Dumpling committee held an end-of-year meeting on November 14th. Disbursements for missions were agreed upon and made for the year.

A big THANK YOU to Joyce Brubeck for her service as Secretary/Treasurer. She will retire from this position at the end of 2018. Ray and Sue Patterson agreed to fill this position starting in 2019.

It has been a great year of fellowship for our group and we are always looking for additional volunteers to help us in creating and selling the apple dumplings.

Starting in 2019, apple dumplings will cost \$3.00 each (previous cost was \$2.50). Apple dumplings will be made again in February - date to be announced.

Simple words say it best.... Thank you to a great bunch of people! - Jean Bean



DECEMBER SERMON SERIES: *The Christmas Story According to John*

Sunday, December 2nd

"Why the World Needs the Word" John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 9th

"The Way Back Home" John 14:1-7

Sunday, December 16th

"The Truth that Endures" John 8:31, 32

Sunday, December 23rd

"The Life that Brings Life" John 6:35-40

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 - Children's Service at Aisle 7 (VCC)
7:30 - Traditional Candlelight Service at VUMC
11:00 - Traditional Candlelight Service at VUMC

Sunday, December 30th

"The Light that Shines in the Darkness" Jn. 3:16 - 21

Response to Natural Disasters

As many disasters threaten communities in the U.S., the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and our partners are prepared to respond.

Please join us in prayer for the areas affected and consider a gift to UMCOR Disaster Response.

To donate to Disaster Response in the United States, including hurricanes and fires, make your check out to Verona UMC with the notation: UMCOR Response #901670. 100% of your donation will go to U.S. relief efforts.

Christmas Gift for Church Staff

"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, 12/3, 12/10, & 12/17. We have 17 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 the February 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

St. Louis, Missouri—February 23-26, 2019

If you have followed news articles, blogs, editorials, etc. about the upcoming special General Conference of The United Methodist Church, you are probably as brain-weary (and soul-weary) as I am.

In three months in St. Louis, representatives from our world-wide UMC will be given several options on how we might move forward as a united church amidst the deep divisions over questions of human sexuality and the veracity and authority of Scripture. Whether any of these options will accomplish the goal of unity is uncertain.

Many have spent the last couple of years predicting what will happen at this General Conference and what the future of the UMC will look like. You can search the internet and find a wealth of information about the Conference's structure and purpose and possible outcomes if you desire.

But I believe there are some things we can do that are far more important than parsing and debating the technical aspects of what is coming. They include:

- Prayerfully returning to the Holy Scriptures for guidance, strength, and inspiration.
- Giving thanks to God, even in these circumstances.
- Praying for guidance and a path to love and peace in Christ, even if we cannot remain structurally united.
- Repenting of our many sins, including our constant desire to please and impress human beings above our desire to please and obey God.

- Pastor Bob Weeks

VUMC Apple Butter for Sale

Pints (\$5) and quarts (\$8) of apple butter made right here at VUMC are for sale through the church office, Verona Community Center, and in the fellowship hall on Sunday mornings. Proceeds benefit our food pantry ministry, the community center, Aisle 7 Fellowship and adult mission teams.

Celebration Singers at VUMC

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Celebration Singers concert at VUMC scheduled for November 18th was postponed until early 2019. Watch for the new date in our weekly bulletin insert and E-Tower (emailed).

Staunton Choral Society Christmas Concerts

"Sing We All" will be performed on December 1, 2018 at **Calvary United Methodist Church in Stuarts Draft at 7pm** and on December 2, 2018 at **Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton at 7pm**. A free-will offering will benefit the Society.



VUMC Chancel Choir News

Choir Rehearsals On Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Our Christmas program - "Sing a Song of Christmas" - will be presented on Dec. 9th at 6 p.m. The dress rehearsal is Dec. 8th at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Update on Virginia Blood Services

From Alyson Wood, Regional Account Manager:

VA Blood Services merged with American Red Cross as of November 1, 2018. During this transition period, there is a learning curve taking place for the staff. They will not be able to hold any blood drives in the months of November and December. We expect drives to begin again in 2019.

From Janet McAllister - VUMC Blood Drive Coordinator

I want to thank all the donors and volunteers for their participation and making 2018 a very successful year. A total of 159 units were collected. In Jan. - 39, March - 26, May - 31, July - 26 and Nov. - 37. I am looking for a repeat performance in the upcoming year.

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24th—5 to 6 pm
Verona Community Center

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with worship and music that is **child and family friendly**. Come as you are—all children will be invited to be part of a "living nativity" with costumes provided. **Free refreshments will be served.**

This is a great opportunity to help your children learn the story of Jesus and why he is still "the reason for the season."

Sponsored by Aisle 7 Fellowship, Living Stone Church of the Nazarene and Verona United Methodist Church



VERONA UMW



Remember your Prayer Partner

United Methodist Women News

From Joy Utberg, UMW President:

As this year comes to a close, I would like to thank all the United Methodist Women who helped make 2018 a great year! I especially want to thank Gayle Meeks, outgoing Vice President, and Linda Garber, outgoing Secretary, for their dedication to the work of the UMW.

Please join us on Saturday, December 8th for our last event of the year. We will enjoy a lunch with homemade soup. After our business meeting, we will deliver the soup and sing Christmas carols to several church members who need some fellowship.

Looking forward to 2019, we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the UMW and preceding organizations. What started with 8 women, has grown into a mission organization with over 800,000 women whose main focus is to help women, children & youth in need. On a local level, we can make a difference in someone's life through hands-on mission. We are making plans to devote a few mornings to volunteering at the new Mission Central Children's clothes closet in Harrisonburg. Let me or Lydia know if you would like to help!

Upcoming events:

- Saturday, December 8th at Noon– CHANGE OF DATE! – UMW Christmas meeting, soup luncheon, & soup delivery to church members. Please join us as we install new officers and exchange Prayer Partners for 2019.
- Jan. 31 – UM Day at VA General Assembly, Richmond- I have registration forms if you are interested.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Sat., April 6th, 2019 – UMW sponsored Yard Sale – rent a table or 2 to sell your excess stuff!

If you have any questions about the UMW, or are thinking of joining, please feel free to contact me at 569-2702, or reach out to one of the 2019 officers: Carol Brydge – VP Susan Walker - Secretary Millie Davis – Treasurer Grace Dick – Spiritual Growth Coordinator Lydia Weeks – Reading Program Joy Tinsley – Nominating

VUMC UMW Circle Meetings Esther Circle–3rd Mon. 2pm at the church–Linda Garber & Linda Wiseman, Co-Chairs
Rebecca Circle –2nd Saturday, 10am at the church – Gayle Meeks, Chair

Join the UM Women's Reading Program

The purpose of the United Methodist Women's reading program is to encourage women to expand understanding of God's mission, to increase sensitivity to all human beings and to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity. Our circles here recently purchased five books from the Reading Program list. They are:

- ***I Love Growing Older but I'll Never Grow Old*** - a book about making peace with "whatever you are right now." It's about learning from the past and then moving past it.
- ***Coaltown Jesus*** - a short novel about Jesus' visit to a 17 year old whose brother has died.
- ***Global Girlfriends*** - How one mom made it her business to help women in poverty worldwide
- ***Hope Runs*** - An American tourist, a Kenyan boy, a Journey of Redemption
- ***Every Last Drop; Bringing Clean Water Home*** - a book for young people that shows how people around the world seek out and care for the precious liquid that gives us life.

For info. about borrowing books from our lending library contact Lydia (886-1460) or Lisa (248-3379)

**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*
—Joy Utberg, Verona UMW Pres.

VUMC Glove, Hat & Sock Christmas Tree

Bring your gifts of children's gloves, hats, and socks to the main church entrance and hang on the tree.

We'll give the gifts out after Christmas Eve.

Thanksgiving Offering for Valley Mission

Our Thanksgiving Sunday Special Offering in the amount of \$398 went to Valley Mission. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed.

Christmas Offering for Disaster Relief

Our Christmas Eve Special Offering will be donated to the UMCOR Domestic Disaster Relief Fund (aiding victims of recent hurricanes).

VUMC November E-Tower Polls

Which of the following statements is NOT true

1. John Wesley wrote one of the all-time bestselling medical texts—29%
2. John Wesley coined the term "agree to disagree"—21%
3. John Wesley rode far enough on horseback to circle the earth 10X—7%
4. Methodism grew from 4 to 132,000 members during Wesley's life—29%
5. John Wesley avidly supported of the American Revolution—14%

(#5 is NOT true—Wesley was perplexed as to why the American colonists felt revolution was justified)

If I could participate in just one Bible study this year, I would want it to be about:

1. The Life of Jesus and the Gospels - 16%
2. Resurrection and Heaven - 40%
3. John Wesley & The Methodist Revolution - 4%
4. An Overview of the New Testament - 12%
5. Revelation and the End Times - 8%
6. The Letters of Paul - 16%
7. An Overview of the Old Testament - 4%



Debbie Link, Barbara Breeden, Faith Bridges, Winston Jackson, Thelma Smith, Dot Hess, Patsy Dastoli, Ruth Weaver, Willie Lockridge, Ronald Smith, Margaret Helmick, Jean May, Inez Fultz, Howard Rexrode, Elijah Smith, Don & Caroline McFaden, Roger Moats, Frances Johnson, Ray Smith, Harle Jackson, Jeff Spiggle, Joy Tinsley, Kitty Wine, Bill & Nancy Welliver, Farris Gwin, Wilma Shuey, Corkie Collie, Scott Arbogast, Parker Staples, Marie Cason, Kathy Poarch, Kaye Mozingo

Our Prayers & Sympathy are extended to:

- The family and friends of Benny Craun upon his recent death
- Sheila Swanson and family on the passing of her mother Grace Schwab
- Larry and Fred Wills and family on the passing of their brother Jeffrey

Notes of Sincere Appreciation

Dear Pastor Weeks, thank you for providing such a meaningful memorial service for my brother Benny. He was blessed to be a member of your church. I'm glad I had the opportunity to meet so many of his church friends. Thanks, also, to the ladies who provided refreshments. God bless all of you. - Judy Craun

Dear VUMC Family, I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to send me a card, pray for me or ask about me as I have been undergoing treatment. It means a lot to have support at a time like this. A special thank you to Doris Thompson. Keep me in your prayers as I face surgery after I recover from chemo. -God bless you all, Winston and Ramona Jackson

Dear VUMC, I wanted to thank the church for my graduation gift. I officially graduated from ODU in August with a Studio Arts Degree and started a full-time job a month ago. [I made this card in my screen printing class.] - Elizabeth Weeks Ward

Dear Church, thank you so much for allowing us to stay at the church this past weekend. Everything was perfect and made for a terrific weekend! - JMU Students working at Project Grows

Verona UMC December- January Calendar

Church meetings/events

- Dec. 2—Children’s Christmas Program 6 pm
- Dec. 8—Choir Dress Rehearsal 10 am
- Dec. 9—Choir Christmas Program 6 pm
- Dec. 16—Cookies with Santa at VCC 2 pm
 Blue Christmas Service at VUMC 4 pm
- Dec. 24—Child Friendly Christmas Eve Service at
 Aisle 7 Fellowship 5pm
 Candlelight Service at VUMC 7:30 pm
 Candlelight Service at VUMC 11 pm
- Dec. 25—Jesus’ Birthday - Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 30—Last Sunday worship services of 2018!
- Jan. 7—SPRC, 7 p.m., Room 146
- Jan. 8—Trustees Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 146
- Jan. 15—Church Council, 7 p.m., Room 146
- Jan. 24—Joint Work Areas, 6:30 p.m., FH
 (Nurture, Outreach, Witness, Age-Level)

Worship Services held each Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. with Sunday School at 10 a.m.

Aisle 7 Fellowship, our second campus, meets at the Verona Community Center at 10:45 a.m.

Prayer meetings held Wednesdays at 9 a.m. at the Verona Community Center and on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 at VUMC

Choir rehearsals (COMBINED) held Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Sanctuary

Rebecca Circle - 2nd Saturday; monthly 10am Rm 146

Esther Circle - 3rd Monday; monthly 2pm, Rm 144

Community meetings/events

- AA** - Sundays & Wednesdays; weekly 8pm, Rm 302
- AL-ANON** - Sun. & Wed.; weekly 8pm Rm 141
- NA** - 2nd Sunday; monthly 3pm Rm 146
- S-ANON** - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; monthly, 6pm Rm 302
- TOPS** - Wednesday; weekly 6pm Rm 143
- Girl Scouts** - 2nd & 4th Wed.; monthly 6:30 pm Rm 141
- Happy Notes** - Thursday; weekly 9:30am in sanctuary
- FAA** - Thursday; weekly 6:45 Rm 201
- Verona Ruritans** - 3rd Thursday; monthly 7pm BRMH



DECEMBER		12/14	12/15	12/16	12/17	12/18	12/20	12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/5	1/6	1/8	1/9	1/10	1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15	1/16	1/17	1/19	1/20	1/21	1/22	1/26	1/28	1/29	1/30	1/31																														
12/1	Dennis Woolfrey Tammy Woods	Brayden Quick	Nancy Welliver	Wendell Alexander	12/17	12/18	12/20	12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/5	1/6	1/8	1/9	1/10	1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15	1/16	1/17	1/19	1/20	1/21	1/22	1/26	1/28	1/29	1/30	1/31																														
12/3	Cathi Earhart Jeff Hodge	Anzie Linger	Anzie Linger	Anzie Linger	Amber Wagner	Fritz Horisk	Debbie Hilbert	Malissa Reed	Elaine Huffman	Joan Perdue	Eric Gibbons	Carson Hall	Willa Hickman	Ron McAllister	Eddie Mazingo	Nick Bauman	Dot Hess	Rita Halley	Patsy Rhinehart	Faye Wills	Fred Lackey	Cameron Little	Derek Jackson	William Bussard	Susan Allen	Cassie Alger	Harry Lockridge	Grace Lambert	Clay Lambert	Sue MacTavish	Bob Evers	Becky Gilkerson	Larry Mauzy	Mariah McAllister	Wendy Sailer	Rachel Lambert	Paige Sailer	Marie Cason	Zack Gurkin	Katelyn Neighbors	Teresa Bishop	Derek Shifflett	Tammy Drega	Tanya Fitzpatrick	Peggy Dunsmore	Marci Lackey	Debbie Link	Matthew Mazingo	Boyd Glover	Joe Ruoto	Kitty Wine	Dennis Garber	Ruth Reeves	Galen Halpin	Jordan Blosser	Max Jones	George Mazingo	Robbie Wiseman	Mary Jane Staples	Doug Shifflett	Stacy Dunsmore	Cole Sailer	Gene Van Pelt	Millie Davis	Amy Wiseman	Dave Alexander	Don Alexander	Amy Moore	Pam Arbogast	Linda Custer





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

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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:

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

Bible Wordsearch 

Wordsearch 231

Matt. 1:16 - 2:5

Birth of Jesus

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

AFRAID APPEARED
 ANGEL CONCEIVED
 BIRTH CHRIST
 CHILD DIVORCE
 DAVID FATHER
 DREAM FULFILL
 EXILE HEROD
 HOLY HUSBAND
 JESUS IMMANUEL
 JEWS JOSEPH
 JUDEA MATTHEW
 KING MOTHER
 LORD PEOPLE
 MAGI PLEDGED
 MARY PRIESTS
 STAR PROPHET
 UNION WORSHIP
 VIRGIN PUBLIC
 WIFE SPIRIT
 WOKE WRITTEN

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

