

**MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER July 2017**  
**3035 Mount Pleasant Blvd., Roanoke, Virginia 24014**  
**Phone: 540-427-3064 website: mpumc.church**

**“GOOD ROOTS” SERMON SERIES**

Don't miss Pastor Robert's 5-week sermon series "GOOD ROOTS" beginning July 9. There are some important distinctive doctrines and practices that are a part of our United Methodist tradition. Understanding these distinctives will give you a greater respect for our heritage as well as a better appreciation of our other Christian neighbors.

Many of the fastest growing churches these days have no clear denominational affiliation. We see this in the church names, even here in Roanoke. It's hard to tell what they are! Nothing wrong with that, but we sometimes forget that even so-called non-denominational traditions still have their unique approach. Even a so-called "Bible church" still has a particular approach to the Bible! You just may have to dig deep to figure it out!

Stay connected during this important five week series!

**“BE CAREFUL OUT THERE” STUDY SUNDAYS AT 5:30 PM BEGINNING JULY 16**

*“Pastor Robert, that's an odd name for a Bible study.”* Yes, it is. Some of the most famous Christian writers and preachers have quite a great following due to book publishing and television. Each of these has their own appeal, but they may or may not align with our more traditional teachings.

Many of the names are familiar! Charles Stanley, Paula White, Beth Moore, Joel Osteen, Max Lucado, David Jeremiah, Franklin Graham, John Hagee, T. D. Jakes, Rick Warren, Andy Stanley, Rob Bell, Steven Furtick, Jonathan Falwell, and Tony Evans. And there are many more!

You really do need to “be careful out there” so that you do not get distracted by teachings that are not central to our understanding of the faith. Pastor Robert will seek to be nothing but fair in lifting up the positives and negatives of some of the various preachers and televangelists of our day. This study will continue for five to seven weeks. Stay tuned for the exact dates through August.

**THE GREAT SONG TOURNAMENT CONTINUES**

Round Four of The Great Song Tournament begins July 2, with our “Elite Eight” selections. Pick up your ballot at church, or message Pastor Robert to receive it by email. July 16 will be the last Sunday for this round! Our top eight songs are Because He Lives, Blessed Assurance, How Great Thou Art, I'll Fly Away, My Chains Are Gone, Standing on the Promises, Ten Thousand Reasons, and There's Something About That Name! Which ones will make the Final Four?!

**PASTOR SIGHTINGS**

Pastor Robert will serve as the chaplain at Camp Alta Mons the week of July 9-14. The 2017 theme is “Driven By Love.”

**“SECOND SATURDAY” JULY 8**

Join us downstairs at 5:30 p.m. on July 8 for our “SECOND SATURDAY” community-based casual worship! Help share the word about Second Saturday! This could be a special opportunity for someone who can't attend on Sunday! Worship is followed by fellowship and food – feel free to bring munchies to share and stay a while! (Over half of our attenders come from beyond our own church family!)

**OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for June**

June 4	56	June 18	45
June 11	61**	June 25	81

\*\*6/11 includes Second Saturday

June 2017 Average	61	June 2016 Average	68
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**Online Views (to date)**

June 4	88	June 18	83
June 11	123	June 25	115

**OUR GIFTS**

June Offerings/Income	\$ 7,876.25
Average Monthly Need	\$ 10,337.00
**Other June Income	\$ 1,163.00

\*\*Other offerings/income for the month include Samaritan (\$291), Ghana (\$222), PCC (\$150), Youth (\$50), Memorial (\$50), Backpack (\$10), Other (\$390.40).

REMEMBER that during the summer, our giving can sometimes fluctuate. Even if you are out of town for a bit, please remember that your consistent weekly and monthly giving can help us stay on track toward our mission and ministries!

**YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS!** Our 2017 general budget is \$124,048. So we need around \$10,337 monthly to fully fund our ministries. Part of that supports UMC apportionments – “a portion” of each offering “meant” for the work of Christ around the world.

Please remember that your regular generous support enables the whole work of Christ's church to remain strong.

**ALTA MONS** is one of our most “local” items. The work and ministry of historic Camp Alta Mons (between Salem and Christiansburg, near Shawsville) is supported by the 70 UM churches in the Roanoke area. Alta Mons is best known for its summer camping ministry, but there are year-round ministry, retreat, camping and recreational opportunities, too! If you have never seen the beauty of Camp Alta Mons, you will want to be a part of the area-wide celebration and picnic on Saturday, August 26. This year celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alta Mons, or you might be interested in the Family Square Dance at Alta Mons on October 14!

Our monthly apportionment share is \$162. This is pooled with our neighbor churches to support this sacred place! Remember, Alta Mons is open to the public every day from sunrise to sunset except during summer camp (June 25 to July 21). During that time you may hike on Saturdays or Sundays before 2:00 p.m. If you plan to hike during late June or July, it is best to call the office before driving to Alta Mons to make sure they are open for hiking.

**OUR PRAYERS, SERVICE AND WITNESS**

Thank you for your daily prayers for our ministry, for sharing your prayer requests and praise reports, for giving of your time, energy and talents, and for making a positive witness for Christ and his church!

**EXTENDING THE COMMUNION TABLE**

You can help bring Communion to someone who can't attend. Please let Pastor Robert know if there is a need, or if you would like to help! We have folks ready to assist!

## PASTOR CHATTER

Please take a look at two important articles in this issue. "GOOD ROOTS" tells you about my new preaching series beginning July 9. And "BE CAREFUL OUT THERE" is a new Sunday evening study starting July 16.

The older I get, the more I appreciate the insights of other Christian groups and even other religions! But I also grow more and more appreciative of the solid doctrine of our United Methodist Church, and how well rooted it is in the core teachings of the Bible. Often I fail to make it clear how important these teachings are! Though we have much in common with our Catholic, Pentecostal, Baptist, and non-denominational friends (just to name a few), we United Methodists do bring something very special to the table. Though your summer schedule may be "hit and miss" (as mine was during June), I hope you will do your best to keep up with these important topics!

Pastor Robert

P.S. Thanks to everyone who helped keep the ministry strong during our two week trip to the West Coast and Hawaii. What a grand time we had. It was so good to be back with you on the last Sunday of June.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Updates and videos from annual conference can be found at the [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org) web site. Thanks to Jane Burks for attending and representing MPUMC!



## BISHOP'S BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

JULY 2-8	Psalms 96-119
JULY 9-15	Psalms 120-150, Proverbs 1-9
JULY 16-22	Proverbs 10-29
JULY 23-29	Proverbs 30-31 Ecclesiastes 1-12
JULY 30 – AUG. 5	Song of Solomon 1-8, Isaiah 1-8 Isaiah 9-41
AUG. 6-12	Isaiah 42-66, Jeremiah 1-3
AUG. 13-19	Jeremiah 4-29
AUG. 20-26	Jeremiah 30-50
AUG. 27 – SEPT. 2	Jeremiah 51-52, Lamentations 1-5, Ezekiel 1-15

(The day-by-day list is available online, on the handout at church, or in the weekly worship bulletin.)



## FROM THE CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

Summer time and the living is easy..... unless you walk in our fellowship hall on Wednesday afternoon... and you will see that it is nothing short of pure chaos! But we are loving every single minute of it. Our program has 52 children registered this summer ranging from rising first through sixth grades. We've been exploring questions we have about God as we follow cousins, Stevie and Parker,

each week as they explore their Great Grandpa Pif Paf's manor. (Did you know our sanctuary transforms into different sections of the manor each week? We've already explored the kitchen and the study.)

In the afternoons, we've continued our detective theme and are working through a Bible Detective workbook and have participated in several activities including "who kidnapped Pastor Robert" as well as a trip to the library to see some of the animals from the Mill Mountain Zoo! We take a break for the Fourth of July holiday and will resume July 12 as we trek down to the library for a magic program, do some deactivate science activities and welcome Bricks for Kids. Our program wraps up on August 2 with a cook out, water games, and Messy Olympics. Come join us!

Want to help? We are always in need of snacks... these kids work up an appetite! See Heather for a list of items needed. (and you can always come and play with us!)

## Helping Hands Missions Trip

On June 26 and 27 four students traveled to Peace United Methodist Church in Fredericksburg, VA for the Annual Helping Hands Missions Trip. This trip is an introduction to missions for rising 4th through 6th graders and has several sites throughout the district. This is the fourth year our church has participated. These four students shared the three "Ws" of missions work (work, witness and warmth) and was able to hear from several missionaries as well. Their work included hosting an ice cream social at the local homeless shelter and playing with the children there, helping with various projects around the church, singing to the residents at a local nursing home, and preparing dinner for the local fire station. Great fun was had by all and they can't wait to go again next year!

## Summer Hang Time At Brookhill

Youth at Mt. Pleasant UMC is on hiatus, but we're hanging out every week at Brookhill Baptist from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.! We've been having so much fun as we eat, play games, and spend a little time in the word. Our current devotion is the "Teenage Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse" and it's been great fun pretending to be Zombies and relating it to today's world. Join us! Contact Miss Heather if you need a ride! (Hang Time at Brookhill will continue through August 13.

Thank you for your support of the children and teen ministry at Mt. Pleasant.

Heather St. Clair  
Director of Children, Teens, and Families

**LUNCH BUNCH**, Monday, July 10 - Meet outside the entrance at K&W Tanglewood at 11:30 a.m.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**, Wednesday, July 5, 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a business meeting, salad luncheon and program. All women are invited to bring their favorite salad and a friend to the meeting.

**SECOND SUNDAY**, July 9, after worship we will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with a sundae reception. Everyone is welcome.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**, July 20, 7:00 p.m. – Six months of 2017 have passed. What did we accomplish and what can we accomplish in the next six months? Members are urged to attend.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** - Southeast area neighborhoods will celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Jackson Park. There will be food and activities for all ages. All are welcome.

#### **OUT AND ABOUT IN JULY**

Pastor Robert will be OUT AND ABOUT this month at these locations. Stop by for chat, coffee, or prayer! This can be an opportunity to bring a friend to “meet your pastor” in a non-threatening setting.

#### **THURSDAY, JULY 6 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

MP Ball Fields and Park, 3216 Mt. Pleasant Blvd.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 - 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Sixteen West (Coffee Area), 16 Church Ave. SW

#### **MONDAY, JULY 24 – 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Mt. Pleasant Library, 2918 Jae Valley Rd.

#### **MONDAY, JULY 31 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

Hope's Café, 3327 Garden City Blvd.

#### **ACROSS THE AREA (go to [roanokeumc.org](http://roanokeumc.org) or [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org))**

- DOWNRIVER DEVOTIONALS Wednesdays at noon during the summer. Meet on the Greenway at milepost 22.7. Park at Smith Park. Sponsored by Greene Memorial.
- “I HEAR AMERICA SINGING” – A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF GOD AND COUNTRY – Sunday, July 2, at 5:00 p.m. at Thrasher Memorial UMC in Vinton. Presented by the choirs of Thrasher and Greene Memorial, along with the Thrasher orchestra. Dinner to follow.
- MISSION TRIP doing flood relief work in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, July 9-15, has a few spaces. Contact Todd Fitch ([todd.fitch@comcast.net](mailto:todd.fitch@comcast.net)) with St. Paul Christiansburg.
- UMW MISSION ENCOUNTER WEEK in Virginia will be July 28-30.
- RALEIGH COURT UMC trip to see Jonah in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, August 4-5. Call 344-6011.
- 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP ALTA MONS AND DISTRICT COOKOUT, at the camp on Saturday, August 26, at 11:00 a.m. Plan to attend and enjoy the celebration! There will be potluck lunch, bands, wagon rides, pool, high ropes, etc. Free and open to all.
- HOLY LAND JOURNEY led by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis next year February 26 – March 7, 2018. Enjoy the opportunity to “walk where Jesus walked” with the fellowship of church friends from across Virginia! See Pastor Robert for a brochure!

#### **NOTES OF THANKS**

**DEAR CHURCH FAMILY**, thank you for helping the UMW fill and pay shipping for 26 health kits for conference.

**MANY THANKS** to those who made contributions to the Samaritan Offering for the Hermitage in Roanoke. The Roanoke home has the largest number of residents receiving aid and they are very appreciative.

Winky

Please accept my deepest gratitude on behalf of my family to the ladies of MPUMC for all their efforts in making my mother's memorial service a sweet celebration. The bulletins were beautifully done and the luncheon was delicious and welcoming to all who attended. I can't imagine a better place to celebrate my mother's life than in the church she loved.

With much love and gratitude,  
Lisa Kelly (The Tabor family)

To Mount Pleasant UMW: Just a note to thank you for the wonderful donation of a gift card to Jo Ann Fabric for our Days for Girls Mission. We have already put it to good use. We completed five kits and they will be headed to Guatemala. Your thoughtfulness and support of this mission means so much. Thanks again.

Lane Canada, Days For Girls  
Northview UMC

#### **CONGRATS SENIORS!**

It was a joy to honor three graduating seniors on May 28 - Morgan Chaszar, Samara Jacobson, and Alan Peterson!



#### **July Birthdays**

- (3) Brandon Beck; (4) Hope Patsel  
(6) Frances Dillon; (7) Pat Musselwhite  
(8) Tommy Richardson; (11) Julie Holmes  
(14) Megan Gilmore; (19) Naomi Bolling  
(21) Rojak Hale; (22) Rick Beck  
(25) Jonathan Williams; Joshua Williams  
(30) Betty Clark; (31) Emily Fisher



#### **July Anniversaries**

- (7) Claudine Wagner; (17) Benny & Jenny Basham

**DEADLINE** for the August newsletter is **July 30**.