

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

**DON'T MISS "CHAT AND CHEW" WITH BISHOP LEWIS!**

Sign up for "Chat and Chew" with Bishop Lewis on Sunday, May 21, at Thrasher UMC. A community meal is served at 4:30 p.m., and "chat time" with the bishop follows! Cost is \$5 for the meal. RSVP by May 15 on the signup pad in the sanctuary. Or go to [roanokeumc.org](http://roanokeumc.org). (If you chat and not chew, no RSVP needed!) There won't be any pastors in the room, as Bishop Lewis has a separate time with them. Questions to be covered include:

- What would you like to know about your new bishop?
- What do you desire from the leadership of the bishop?
- How might we reach more people to be involved at all levels – local, district, conference, and beyond?
- If you were the bishop, where would you focus your attention?

**MPUMC CRADLE ROLL** - We have had several births to celebrate lately. Remember when churches had a "CRADLE ROLL," a special caring network for infants, toddlers and twos and their families. Here are some of the youngest members of the extended church family. Keep them in your prayers. I am sure there are some we have missed, so let us know so we can expand the roll AND the caring!

- Isabella Marie Barnette, October 5, 2016  
 daughter of Aubrey Barnette & Joy Sink
- Jase Jacob Houston Beckner, September 21, 2015  
 Landon Wyatt Alexander Beckner February 15, 2017  
 sons of Brent & Shay Beckner
- Sam Heath Bradford, January 21, 2017  
 son of Mark & Laura Bradford
- Annalise Grace Creel, March 16, 2015  
 daughter of Joel & Meagan Creel  
 granddaughter of John & Sandy Mathena
- Zayden Christopher Holmes, November 24, 2015  
 son of Amanda Holmes  
 grandson of Jennifer Holmes  
 great-grandson of Julie Burrell
- Piper Lee Lucas, September 25, 2015  
 daughter of Samantha Lucas
- Ruby Layne McMillan, August 29, 2014  
 Timber Marie McMillan, August 24, 2016  
 daughters of Jeremiah & Lindsey McMillan  
 granddaughters of Jan & Janet McMillan
- Laken Marie Musselwhite, April 23, 2015  
 daughter of Brian Musselwhite & Kelly Chewing  
 granddaughter of Pat & Brenda Musselwhite
- Audree Mae Smith, January 24, 2015  
 daughter of Michael Smith and Katelyn Felicita  
 granddaughter of Penny Arrington
- Leelend Alexander Workman, May 9, 2016  
 William Ryder Workman  
 twin sons of Alec Workman  
 grandsons of Robert & Tina Workman

**FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION THROUGH**

**OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for April**

April 2	51	April 23	46
April 9	79**	April 30	59
April 16	102		

\*\*4/9 includes Second Saturday

April 2017 Average	67	April 2016 Average	69
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**Online Views (to date)**

April 2	103	April 23	182
April 9	66	April 30	119
April 16	169		

**OUR GIFTS**

April Offerings/Income	\$ 9,550.00
Average Monthly Need	\$ 10,337.00
**Other April Income	\$ 1,054.50

\*\*Other offerings/income for the month include Backpack (\$557.30), Confirmation Retreat (\$250), Ghana (\$115), Kroger Cards (\$113.20), Communion (\$12), Second Saturday (\$7).

**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.

**WORLD SERVICE** is one of the best known funds that is a part of our United Methodist heritage. Our church family contributes about \$43 a week for World Service. But where does it go? As you might guess, this fund goes "around the world" for missionaries, evangelism, new churches, anti-hunger projects, advocacy for justice, and local church resources for work with children, youth, singles, students, disabled persons, and adults of all ages. "A portion" of every offering you make literally travels across the globe! Thank you for the part you play!

**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!

**"SECOND SATURDAY"** - Join us downstairs at 5:30 p.m. on May 13 for our "SECOND SATURDAY" community-based casual worship! Help share the word about Second Saturday! This is great for folks who can't come 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!)

**MAY 28 GRADUATE RECOGNITION** - On Sunday, May 28, we will have a special time of recognition in worship for our graduating high school seniors. This is such a great time for churches to show a little love for those taking this big step. NOTE: If there are high school seniors who are a part of our "extended church family" (other than those who are participating in worship or youth group now) please alert Pastor Robert so we can give them an invitation.

## PASTOR CHATTER

On April 30, I shared some thoughts about the difference between “cessationists” and “continuationists.” This is not an issue I had ever explored very deeply. There are a few Christian groups that believe that the Book of Acts shows us a distinct time in the early church in which “signs, wonders and miracles” were frequent, and that this time is over. It has ceased. These are the cessationists!

There are also some that believe that “signs, wonders and miracles” are to be expected on a regular basis today. That the extraordinary stories in the Book of Acts are not extraordinary at all. These are the continuationists!

As I noted in that message, United Methodist do not really fall into either “camp,” and our views are not extreme in either direction. However, we clearly do NOT have a doctrine of cessation. Nowhere do we teach that the Holy Spirit worked one way in the Book of Acts and that some of those gifts of the Spirit have been retired.

Signs, wonders and miracles may not be commonplace. If they were too common, they wouldn’t get our attention! But in my not-so-humble view, we are to be deeply open to the powerful moving of God’s Spirit in mighty ways....even today....even in OUR church!

Don’t read the Book of Acts and just be excited about what God did “back in the day.” Read the Book of Acts and then pray for God to move in mighty ways right here and right now!

Pastor Robert

**PASTOR SIGHTINGS** - Every active United Methodist ordained pastor is expected to fulfill regular expectations for continuing education and spiritual renewal. During May, Pastor Robert will attend the Festival of Homiletics, an annual weeklong workshop on preaching. Some 1,300 or more pastors gather for this learning event, May 15-19, in San Antonio. He will also be attending his own home annual conference session May 29-31 back in Texas. No Sundays missed this month, so don’t play hooky!

**A NEW “VIRTUAL” MEN’S GROUP** - Pastor Robert is experimenting with a new Wednesday late evening virtual men’s group that gathers online! If you’re interested, check with him for more info about how to connect!

**THE GREAT SONG TOURNAMENT** - Round One of The Great Song Tournament has begun. You have until Sunday, May 14, to fill out your bracket. There are 64 songs, and you get to choose your 32 favorites (one out of each pair). Round Two begins on Sunday, May 21. Eventually we will find out the Grand Champion! Pick up your ballot at church, or message Pastor Robert to receive it by email!

**LIFE GROUP UPDATE!** - LIFE GROUP meets Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. at PCC, 1228 Jamison Ave. SE. All are welcome. Come to the topic that interests you:

MAY 10 - How can I have enough faith to trust God for my needs?

MAY 17 - How can I learn to start sharing my personal story of faith?

MAY 24 - Where am I now in my relationship with God?



## FROM THE CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

### Youth Group – Sundays 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Our final series this school year is Click and starts Sunday, May 7, at 5:00 p.m. No youth the remainder of May but we will pick up June 4 and June 11.

We will head to Brookhill Baptist on Sunday nights for the summer months. Be on the lookout for more details!

### Summer Camp

All the fun of summer camp is right around the corner! Pastor Robert will be the chaplain at camp the week of July 9-14 so if you’re more comfortable sending your child when you know someone there ... that’s the week to go. (But if that week doesn’t work, there are many more opportunities!) More information about camp is located here <http://www.altamons.org/summer-camp.html> (plus one of our teens will be there all summer as a counselor-in-training. Scholarships are available.

### Wonderful Wednesdays Returns

Mark your calendars for Wonderful Wednesdays this summer! The program starts on June 14 and runs through August 2 (no program on July 5). Registration is open for Mystery Manor. You can register online at [www.mpumc.church](http://www.mpumc.church) and there will be a limited number of spaces available.

How can you help? We need adult volunteers. Our program can’t happen without them. Even if you’re able to help two or three Wednesdays throughout the summer. Snack donations – individually wrapped snacks (no peanuts) and juice mix are super helpful. Money is always helpful and prayer. Please see Heather to volunteer.

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

**BUS UPDATE!** - Our new church bus is now getting a few repairs along with a Virginia inspection. The title has been transferred into the name of the church, and it has been added to our church insurance. Because of the size of the vehicle, not just anyone can drive it – you must have a Virginia commercial license. We have a couple of folks who have agreed to be available for occasional driving, and Heather and Pastor Robert are working to get certified. If you happen to have a CDL already and would be willing to drive, that would be awesome – just let Pastor Robert know!

We look forward to being able to use this vehicle in ways that will enhance our ministries with all ages!

**A WAY FORWARD** - Because of considerable discord over issues of human sexuality, there will be a called session of the United Methodist General Conference in 2019. A team – COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD – is meeting regularly to prepare a recommendation for maintaining unity in the face of extreme differences of opinion. Keep the work of this team in your prayers. For more information on how you can pray for this work, go to the web site [umcprays.org](http://umcprays.org). During June, Pastor Robert will do a one-session presentation on the work of the “Way Forward” team. This will be Wednesday, June 28, at 6:45 p.m.

**LUNCH BUNCH**, Monday, May 8 – Lunch Bunch - Meet outside the entrance at K&W Tanglewood at 11:30 a.m.

**May 7** - Sunday after worship – we will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with a reception in fellowship hall. EVERY ONE IS WELCOME!!

**May 10** – Please register with Winky McCann if you want to attend Ferrum College Day for United Methodist Women on Saturday, June 3. The event begins at 9:30 and the cost is \$15 per person. MUST register by May 10!

**May 12, 10:30 a.m.** – Our local unit of UMW will tour the Bible Garden at St. John Lutheran Church. We will meet in our church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. After the tour, we will enjoy a dutch treat lunch at K&W cafeteria. You don't have to be a member of UMW to participate. All are welcome to join us.

**May 16, 12:00 Noon** – Senior Fellowship will meet for lunch and program. (We will not meet the months of June, July and August.) Second graders from Mt. Pleasant Elementary will provide musical entertainment. All are invited to this special meeting.

#### **OUT AND ABOUT IN MAY**

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.

**TUESDAY, MAY 2 - 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Market Square downtown

**THURSDAY, MAY 11 (new date) - 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Disabled Amer. Veterans Lounge  
2381 Roanoke Blvd., Salem

**SATURDAY, MAY 13 - Time TBA**

Cave Spring HS (for WBHS track meet)

**TUESDAY, MAY 23 - 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Arby's, 1401 Jameson Ave.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1 - 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

MP Ball Fields & Park, 3216 Mount Pleasant Blvd.

**WORSHIP LIVE STREAMING** - Worship video is available most Sundays – live or later – on the church's Facebook page (find it and like - [@mpumcroanoke](https://www.facebook.com/mpumcroanoke)). Or go to [mpumc.church/sermons](http://mpumc.church/sermons). THANKS for helping share these with others beyond our church family and with those who cannot attend regularly. Every time you share the video on your Facebook page we wind up getting more views!

**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!

#### **BISHOP'S BIBLE READING CHALLENGE**

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

May 7-13	1 Chronicles 18-29, 2 Chronicles 1-12
May 14-20	2 Chronicles 13-36
May 21-27	Ezra 1-10, Nehemiah 1-9
May 28-June 3	Nehemiah 10-13, Esther 1-10, Job 1-10
June 4-10	Job 11-34
June 11-17	Job 35-42, Psalms 1-25
June 18-24	Psalms 26-65
June 25-July 1	Psalms 66-95

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

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

- UMW FERRUM DAY, Saturday, June 3, at 10:00 a.m. at Ferrum College.
- UM MEN'S SPIRITUAL ADVANCE, June 9-11 at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland.
- ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be June 16-18 in Hampton, Va. Visitors are always welcome to attend. You are also welcome to attend “Annual Conference Orientation” on Sunday, June 4, at 3:00 p.m. at Locust Grove UMC in Salem.
- UMW MISSION ENCOUNTER WEEK in Virginia will be July 28-30.

#### **REVELATION PRAISE IN CONCERT - JUNE 18 - 11:00 a.m. MPUMC**

On Sunday, June 18, we will host a mini-concert from the local Christian music group "Revelation Praise" - they will be our worship leaders for that day. More info to come, but hold the date!

#### **NOTES OF THANKS**

Thank you for going above and beyond for our family. We greatly appreciated the warm thoughts expressed in our time of need. Your kindness meant a great deal to us.

Love, Becky Kelly & family

The Aron Sink family would like to say thank you to everyone for their prayers, their donations to the church, and all the wonderful food. Your thoughtfulness was sincerely appreciated. God bless you all.

June Sink

#### **May Birthdays**

- (3) Katrina Milton; (4) Bill St. Clair; (9) Leelend Alexander Workman and William Ryder Workman  
(14) Amanda Jennings; (18) Norma Cash, Jeremiah McMillan, Devin Taylor; (31) Brent Beckner, Brian Fisher

#### **May Anniversaries**

- (6) Lynn & Katrina Milton; (16) Bill & Heather St. Clair; (19) Tommy Booth; (22) Mike & Linda Schoonover