

Loving, Learning and Serving Together

TODAY (1 pm) WHY Youth to visit Benny and Joyce
Newsletter Information to Pat Webb
(4 pm) Spiritual Steel Drum Concert at Antioch COB
MONDAY (7 pm) UMW *Every 3rd Monday (No meetings Jan or Feb)*
SATURDAY (11 am) Hot Dog Sales at L & M Convenience Store and
M & L Mart for Relay for Life
May 27 Graduate Sunday: Special Worship and Pot Luck
June 1 (6:30 pm) Wesley Covenant Group at Krauss House
June 2 (6 pm) Saturday Social at Antioch COB Pavilion: FCHS Jazz Band
followed by the White Family
June 3 (10am)Blessing and Beginning of VBS!
(4 pm) Organ Concert at Antioch Church of the Brethren
(4:30 pm-6 pm) Informational Meeting about the
Commission on the Way Forward at Rocky Mount UMC
(6pm-8:30pm) Vacation Bible School
(7 pm) Community Celtic Worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church
June 3-7 Vacation Bible School
June 8-10 Altamons Camping and Paintball Trip
June 10 Blessing of the Annual Conference Kits and Celebration of VBS
June 15-17 Annual Conference in Hampton Roads, VA
June 17 Cooperative Parish Pulpit Switch!
New Hope (8:30 am) Terry Jamison Preaches
Highland (10 am) Carolyn Saul Preaches
June 20 (Noon) Community Lunch at Bethany *Every 3rd Wed. of the month*
June 22 Relay for Life
June 24 (After Worship) Highland Council Meeting
July 13-15 Highland Church Camping Trip
July 14: Cassie Smith followed by Skillet Sisters at Antioch COB Pavillion
August 4: After Jack music at Antioch COB Pavillion
September 8: Like the Moon followed by The Harwell Grice Band at
Antioch COB

Sign Up to Serve for Vacation Bible School! June 3-7 (6 pm to 8:30 pm) we will experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God! Pre-K to 8th grade. **NEEDED: CLEAN, DRY, no tops, JUST water bottles for VBS. Questions? See Cindy Jamison**

Eva Woolridge: NEW ADDRESS (She now lives with her grand daughter April and family) 3102 Cedarmeade Drive, Roanoke, VA 24014

Hartie Price Scholarship Applications

Now is the time to apply for the Hartie Price Scholarships. Applicants should have been in attendance at Highland for a minimum of two years immediately preceding application and should be classified and accepted as a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants should submit in own handwriting a dated and signed request on or before June 1, 2018. Please include e-mail address and phone number. Important note - Applicants having received a scholarship last year must have provided or provide receipts to be eligible. Submit application to any of the Scholarship Trustees: Judy Prettyman, Chairman; Bob Prettyman, Vice Chairman & Treasurer; Katherine McPherson, Chairman of Education; Vicki Hodges, Member at Large; Pastor Amy.

Commission on the Way Forward

Informational meeting June 3 (4:30 pm to 6 pm) at Rocky Mount UMC. More information—see the prayer wall near the pastor's office.

Saturday Social Live Music at Antioch Church of the Brethren Pavilion (2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151)

June 2: FCHS Jazz Band Followed by the White Family

July 14: Cassie Smith followed by the Skillet Sisters

August 4: After Jack

September 8: Like the Moon followed by The Harwell Grice Band
Begins at 6 pm—Food, Music, Fellowship—Donations Welcome

Annual Conference June 15-17, 2018

Virginia United Methodists will be gathering at Hampton, Virginia for singing, worship, business, and service. This year's theme is "Servant Leaders Making a Difference" from *1 Peter* 4:10. You can "live stream" morning and evening sessions by going to the Conference website www.vaumc.org

Update on the Commission on the Way Forward

Please check out the prayer wall (by the Pastor's Office) for articles and information about this Commission's work the past two years.

Two years ago a Commission on the Way Forward was formed to find a way forward through divisions in the church. Their focus was how can we be our best in making disciples for Jesus Christ? Their focus was NOT how to change people's minds. Respectfully, we believe by faith, differently, but together in our differences, we can serve; we can still be a UNITED church in our differences.

After two years of prayerful, hard work of listening, learning, and praying the Commission created and recommended three possible plans for a way forward: One Church Plan, The Traditional Plan, The Connectional-Conference Plan. Two weeks ago all the Bishops of the United Methodist Church from around the world met. The Bishops are sending all three plans to be voted on at the called General Conference in February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis. The majority of the Bishops recommend the the One Church Plan because it "gives freedom at the Conference and local church levels." But they sent all three plans for the delegates to vote on. UMC.org's Heather Hahn:

*"One Church Plan: decisions about whether to ordain LGBTQ clergy or to officiate at same-gender unions would be made closer to the congregational level. The plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in the Book Discipline, the denomination's policy book. The plan also adds assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscience cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy that they don't have to do so. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe — could maintain current restrictions.

*The Traditionalist Plan: would affirm the current language in the denomination's Book of Discipline, the denomination's governing

document, and seek to strengthen enforcement. The Connectional-Conference plan would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation.

*The Connectional-Conference Plan: would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry — be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination's constitution."

What does this mean for us? We continue praying, worshipping, and serving. No decision has been made. We keep being faithful followers of Jesus Christ. As you see the plans are wide and far.

What's next? We will know more specifics about these possible plans later in July when a detailed report is given. Then, a called General Conference will take place February, 2019. Worship, discussion, and a decision MAY be made. The United Methodist representatives from around the world may vote for one plan or there may be a completely different solution to be One Church that the Holy Spirit stirs up! It may be possible that everything stays the same and a decision cannot be made.

What's important? We not waste energy in all the "what if's." We stay in the present and presence of God, talking and listening, sharing and receiving. As always I am here for you to listen and try to share how I have understood the Commission's work and what lies ahead. I have attended meetings, kept a folder of articles of each step, I have put out the prayer wall so people can go to it for facts, information, vision, shared updates, and calls for prayer. Another informational meeting is being held at Rocky Mount on June 3. There are excellent videos I can send links to so you can watch and understand. One of the Bishops recommended that as we pray toward February, 2019, we pray together *Psalm 23* and the Lord's Prayer. We are united in what matters: Jesus Christ. He will lead us and help us be One in all our differences. Thank you.

Pastor Amy