



# THE TOWER



Monthly Newsletter of  
Verona United Methodist Church

Special  
December-  
January  
Edition

**December &  
January  
2017-18**

## 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*

**Phyllis Mauzy**  
*Nursery Director*

**Ken & Donna Cason**  
*Custodial Staff*

## From the Senior Pastor

### Books that Inspire & Instruct

Christmas and a new year are near, a time when traditions and nostalgia reign! As someone who has always appreciated books as Christmas gifts, I thought I'd share with you this eclectic list of books that have had the greatest impact on my faith from childhood to older adulthood.

I've left off some of the "weightier" books I read for school, not because they weren't valuable in shaping my life and faith, but because I wanted this list to be as accessible as possible for people of all ages and interests. A few may no longer be in print but could be picked up from used bookstores. All would be good reading in 2018:

**THE BIBLE**—I was fortunate to grow up in a family and church that valued the Bible above all other writings. I prefer those without built-in commentaries.

**HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK**—I received this easy to read guide to the Bible when I was ten years old. It helped me see Jesus' presence throughout God's Word.

**DOGS: HEROES, ADVENTURERS, FRIENDS**—My parents gave me this book when I was eleven years old, and its short stories have inspired me for years. I believe God created dogs to remind us of our best attributes: courage, trust, and devotion.

**BARCLAY COMMENTARIES**—Great for preachers and lay persons alike.

**AGAINST THE TIDE**—An inspiring biography of the great Chinese Christian leader and martyr, Watchman Nee.

**WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE**—Yancey's best selling, personal reflections on God's amazing grace.

**TEAM OF RIVALS**—How Abraham Lincoln formed a cabinet of bitter political rivals. Valuable for anyone working in church leadership.

**THE DAY CHRIST DIED**—The first book I read that used the approach of a novel to expand our understanding of the biblical narrative.

**IN HIS STEPS**—Sheldon's classic novel asking the question, "What would Jesus do?"

**YAWEH IS A WARRIOR**—I read this in my twenties. A convincing argument from the Old Testament concerning God, war, and Christian responsibility.

**UNBROKEN**—If you saw the movie, read the book! Two hours in a movie theater cannot scratch the surface of this story of courage, redemption, and faith.

**RICH CHRISTIANS IN AN AGE OF HUNGER**—Ron Sider's biblical argument that Christians cannot stand idly by while the world's hungry beg for crumbs from our tables.

**LET MY HEART BE BROKEN**—I read this moving account of World Vision's birth when I was a teenager. Thank you for giving it to me, Mr. Stringer!

**THE FATE OF THE EARTH**—By Jonathan Schell, this book effectively and movingly described humanity's ability to destroy itself through nuclear war.

**NOT THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE**—This "breviary of sin" helps bring into focus the various ways that sin invades our world and our lives.

*Merry Christmas to all! May our Lord light your way forward into a new year.*

*Bob*

# 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  
January 22**

Please submit items to  
Shawna Hiner by date  
above for the February  
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](http://www.veronaumc.net)  
and check it out!  
You can also receive  
weekly announce-  
ments by email.  
Call 248-7777  
to sign up.



# Christmas Carol Program

Sunday, December 10,  
6 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE

We'll have one worship service at 10 a.m.  
with no Sunday School on December 24

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- 5 p.m. (Children's Service for Entire Family) at  
Aisle 7 Fellowship/Verona Community Center
- 7:30 p.m. (Candlelight & Communion Service) at VUMC
- 11 p.m. (Candlelight & Communion Service) at VUMC



## NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Regular Worship Services on December 31

## Confirmation Classes Begin in January

Confirmation Class in the United Methodist Church is such an important step in a young person's spiritual journey, VUMC's confirmation class will be held during the Sunday School hour beginning January 7 through March 4th. We'll gather at 9:45 a.m. in the pastor's office and finish by 10:40. Students in 6th through 12th grades are invited to participate as we study the meaning of the Gospel and salvation, the Holy Spirit, baptism, communion and our Christian heritage. If you're interested in more information or to sign up, please contact Pastor Bob Weeks.

## Bishop's "Chat & Chew" at Verona UMC

**Save the date: Saturday, January 27th from 8:30 to 2 p.m.**

Four districts comprised of several hundred United Methodist churches will join with Bishop Sharma Lewis for a time of discussion, fellowship and food. Bishop Lewis will address the work of "The Commission On A Way Forward" which recently completed their recommendations to the Council of Bishops concerning the future of our denomination as it relates to divisions over human sexuality and Christian teaching. Watch weekly emails and bulletin inserts for further details.



## The Nurture Work Area

### Between Services Coffee Time

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



- ◆ Dec. 3 Home Builders ◆ Jan. 7 Youth
- ◆ Dec. 10 Witness Team ◆ Jan. 14 Rebecca Circle
- ◆ Dec. 17 Petal Pushers ◆ Jan. 21 Open Door
- ◆ Dec. 24 Esther Circle ◆ Jan. 28 Worship Team
- ◆ Dec. 31 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.

### Wanted: Sunday School Teachers

*Adults needed to work with Sunday School at all age levels* – Contact Children’s Director Amanda Hall.

**Altar Flower Donations** Sign up to donate flowers on any Sunday. A new calendar will be up for 2018. 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 Cafe

We are always in need of snacks for the Verona Community Center Café. 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 café 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 do not need plastic bags until further notice. Thank you.*

### WE CAN ESPECIALLY USE:

- Canned Potatoes, Peas, Carrots, Beets,
- Mixed Vegetables

## Salt & Peppers News Corner

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

### Wohlfahrt Haus' Christmas

**Wytheville, VA, Friday - Dec. 15 at 12:00 PM**

We have sold all of our tickets to Wohlfahrt Haus Christmas play & lunch on Friday, December 15. We will to leave the church **promptly at 9:00 am** and plan to return by 7:00 pm.

### Lunch on Tuesday, January 16

Please join us for lunch on Tuesday, January 16 at 11:30 at Armstrong’s Restaurant in Verona and then for a tour of “The Stonewall Brigade Museum” in Verona at 1:00 pm. Now known as the 116th Infantry Regiment, it is the 7th oldest continuously serving unit in the US. There is no charge for the museum but donations are appreciated. Please let us know if you plan to attend by Monday, January 8.

### February:

Please join us for a baked potato & salad bar lunch planned for Saturday, February 24 at 12:00 noon. Entertainment will be announced at a later date. Please let us know by Monday, February 19th if you plan to attend.

**Please give ALL payments to the committee members or Shawna Hiner. DO NOT put the payments in the offering plate.**

**For more info. on upcoming events, contact:**

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





## Volunteering at the Verona Community Center

Do you like people? Do you have 3 hours or more a month to serve your neighbors at the Verona Community Center?

Volunteers (men and women) are needed to serve as Hosts in the self-serve No-Pay Café, providing free coffee and snacks, and free use of laptops and internet.

Shift hours are available Monday through Friday: 8:30 to 11:30, 11:30 to 2:30, or 2:30 to 5:30 (hosting for some weekend events also available).

## Numbers that Matter November 2017

Winter weather and only one worship service on Jan. 1 & 8 severely affected attendance and offerings in January. Please consider "catching up" on your offerings if you missed during one of those Sundays.

Sunday School (VUMC) Avg. Attendance	92
Worship Avg. 2017—VUMC/A7F	208/42

### GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS (VUMC only)\*

General Fund Weekly Need	8064
General Fund Weekly Avg. 2017	7648
General Fund for VUMC (Month of Nov.)	32,866

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

## 2017 Financial Stewardship Outlook

**A**s we near the end of 2017, we should praise God for faithful stewardship and challenging missions. While our General Fund giving is about 5% below the budgeted goal, our spending is also well below budget. Meanwhile, we have almost \$18,000 in net positive gains through our investment in the United Methodist Foundation to help offset any shortfall.

Aisle 7 Fellowship continues to grow in its support and will finish the year above its income goals.

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

When we consider every part of our ministry—VUMC, Aisle 7, 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. Thank you all!

*Pastor Bob Weeks*

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us."  
C.S. LEWIS

### 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

*Mondays at 9 a.m., Verona Community Center*

#### Wednesday Evening Prayer Group

*Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., next to Library*

### Online Giving Available

It's easy, safe and secure. Go to ([veronaumc.com](http://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.

## Help Process Offerings on Sunday Mornings

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 great volunteer opportunity please contact Donna May at [donnawm@outlook.com](mailto:donnawm@outlook.com) or 540-448-4220.

## Apple Butter for Sale

Quarts of apple butter made right here at VUMC are for sale for \$8 per quart. Jars are available 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, and adult mission teams.



**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.*

## DECEMBER & JANUARY YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

**2018 youth mission trip June 30th-July 7th Delaware.** This trip is open to all youth 6th-12th grades. We will be painting and some small construction jobs. These trips are geared for the youth. This is an amazing trip which is sponsored by Group Workcamps. If you are interested in attending please let Bill or Carolyn Harlow know by Dec 1st.

- Sunday, December 3, 5:30-7pm - meeting at the church. Dinner at the Harlow's, Christmas Caroling.
- Sunday, December 17, 5:30-7pm - Chinese gift exchange. Come and bring a \$10 wrapped gift. Dinner provided.
- Thursday, December 21, 6-7pm -Youth serving Ruritan meal. Youth help needed.
- Sunday, January 7, 5:30-7pm - Youth Dinner & Devotions.
- Saturday, January 13, 5:30-7pm - Dinner and Talent Show. Talent show at 6:30pm. Proceeds benefit youth mission.
- Sunday, January 21, 5:30-7pm - Youth Dinner & Devotions.
- Sunday, January 28, 5:30-7pm -Youth Dinner & Devotions.
- Sunday, February 4, 10:30am—1pm -Super Bowl Luncheon.

### Children's News

WEEKLY BLAST will resume Sunday, January 7, 5-6:30pm.

## Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 3, 6pm

- **December 2, 9am to 12pm-** Dress rehearsal for children's Christmas Musical. We'll have a pancake breakfast and prepare for our play while parents can enjoy a morning of Christmas shopping!
- **December 3, 6pm** "Sing a song of Christmas" children's Christmas musical. Rehearsals will take place during weekly BLAST events.

### *Cookies with Santa ~ Sat. Dec. 9, 2-4pm ~ Community Center*

Children will enjoy decorating cookies, making Christmas ornaments, playing games, and visiting with Santa! Please bring your camera for pictures! ***Sugar cookie donations and volunteers needed!***



### *The Children will sing with the VUMC Choir on December 10, 6pm*

- December 9- 10am rehearsal for Christmas Concert ( I don't know the name of the program). Children should only need to attend for about 30 minutes.
- December 10- Christmas concert (insert correct name here). Children need to be at the church at 5:30. They will be singing songs from their Christmas play. Children should wear church/Christmas attire.

***Please see Amanda or email her at [amandavumc@gmail.com](mailto:amandavumc@gmail.com)***

## YOU NEED THE CHURCH

It happens to be one of the more popular traps along the journey of faith—the idea that somewhere along the path of righteousness we somehow outgrow our need for the church. Perhaps you’ve met someone who was too busy for the church. Maybe you’ve encouraged someone who thought they were too important for the church. What was once the central aspect of their life has now turned into an occasional hobby. We all need a healthy reminder from time to time that we need the church in all seasons and successes of life.

### **We Need the Church for Worship— Not Entertainment or Performance**

When the early church is pictured in the early pages of Acts (Acts 2:42-47), we see the picture of a worshipping church. Centered around the Word of God, the people responded to God in a life that reverberated with the rhythm of worship. You don’t see people searching for their *type* of music. You don’t see people using the church for a performance outlet to satisfy their narcissistic appetite to be seen, heard and to perform. You see a people gathered to worship the sovereign God who spoke the universe into existence from nothing and rescued them through the blood of Christ. More focus on God and less pragmatism is always a much healthier diet for a church.

### **We Need the Church for Spiritual Development**

The Word of God points out that God’s will is never for the Christian to develop spiritually in a vacuum or on a lonely island. Through the community of a local church, God’s people exercise their spiritual giftedness together and it results in spiritual development. Everyone in the church matters! The church is not a building, it’s a people who are called out for God’s glory. It’s impossible to be a part of God’s church without immersing yourself into a local body of Christ followers.

### **We Need the Church for Christ-Centered Friendship**

Christian friendship enables us to seek advice, receive accountability, stay grounded in the faith, and spur one another onward to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25). If the people in your church don’t know you, you’re not really a member of the church.

### **We Need the Church for Biblical Leadership**

The self-guided tour of Christianity doesn’t exist. It’s not an option for the true believer. God has sovereignly designed His church with leaders who are called to faithfully shepherd the church (see 1 Peter 5:1-11 and Hebrews 13:17). Just as it would be utterly foolish for the inexperienced data analyst to leave his cubicle in New York and set out on a self-guided summit of Mount Everest, so it is with those who think they can navigate through this harsh and fallen world without submitting to their pastors. In a day where YouTube and Google serve up whatever recipe or *how-to* video we can imagine, we must be reminded that God has not called Google or YouTube to serve as our pastors.

## **Mexico Mission trip for Our 11th & 12th graders in June 2018**

We will be partnering with Bittersweet Ministries to build a house for a family in Cañon Carretas Mexico. We will also help with children’s Bible studies and other activities. The team will stay in a local bunkhouse and eat in a local restaurant and community center. The trip dates are June 11-16, 2018, each member will be asked to donate \$500 towards the trip.

If you are interested in supporting the mission trip, please contact Carolyn and Bill Harlow at harlowbill7@comcast.net.

## **Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Florida in February/March**

Larry Wills is organizing a team from VUMC and Aisle 7 to travel to Florida in the late winter to help in recovery efforts after this summer’s devastating hurricanes. Exact dates and length of trip to be determined. If you have felt God stirring your soul in compassions for those affected by the hurricanes, please contact Larry at 234-9410.

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*(Cont’d from first column)*

### **We Need the Church for Missions**

As Christ was leaving the sod of this earth, He provided some extremely important words to His followers. He said: *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age* (Matthew 28:18-20).

The Great Commission is not a great suggestion. It’s a command given to us by Christ, but we must likewise remember that it cannot be accomplished alone. If a single Christian is to engage properly in the Great Commission, it must be through the context of a local, tangible, New Testament church.

***The church is not an option for some Christians, it’s a mandate for all Christians. To be a Christian involves participation in the local church. As we pass through various seasons of life, we must avoid the arrogant and self-dependent ideology of spiritual autonomy. It doesn’t end well.***

## Apple Dumpling News

We want to thank everyone for their efforts to make our Apple Dumplings a success for 2017.

We have deposited \$4,062.75 in 2017.

The committee approved the following donations:

- WRE (April) **\$500**
- Youth Missions (April) **\$200**
- Family Council (May) **\$184**
- Audio Video Equip. in Social Hall (Aug.) **\$474**
- Wireless Microphone (August) **\$625**
- WRE **\$500**
- VUMC outside security lighting **\$750**
- Sanctuary Projector **\$600**
- Children's VBS Shirts **\$500**
- Youth Mission Trips **\$200-Delaware/\$300-Mexico**
- Boy Scout Troop 121 **\$100**
- 4 Children from Clymore Elem. **\$75** each for Christmas Gift cards
- Approx. 160 Apple Dumplings or **\$400** to Fall Festival

**Our next date to make Apple Dumplings will be Friday, February 16, 2018**

*Jean and Bernard Bean*

## Staunton Choral Society Christmas Concert "Tell the News"

On Saturday Dec. 2 at 4:00pm at Bethel Presbyterian (Greenville area) and on Sunday Dec. 3 at 7:00pm at Christ Lutheran Church on N Augusta St., Staunton 4 of your Verona UMC members/friends will be singing, Susan Allen, Sue MacTavish, Melinda Wills and Doris Wright. Please come - we love to see your smiling faces in the audience. For more information see web site: [stauntonchoralsociety.org](http://stauntonchoralsociety.org)

**New Church  
Office Hours  
M-Thurs 7 am—3 pm**

## Helping Hands Ministry

**T**here 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 information on how to get involved—248-7777.



## VUMC Chancel Choir News

*We encourage prospective members to come and experience the fun and inspiration of a VUMC choir practice—there are no tryouts, all are welcome. The 11:00 choir practices from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The 8:30 choir practices from 7:15 to 8:15pm (there is a fifteen minute "overlap" when the choirs practice together).*

**Dec. 9, 10 a.m. Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program**

**Dec. 10, 6 p.m. Christmas Program**

**COMBINED CHOIR**

**December 6**

**6:30—8:30 p.m.**

**Regular Choir Rehearsals  
Resume January 3**

*Please keep our VUMC leaders in your prayers...*

## Verona UMC Leadership Roster for 2018

*Names in bold are new to their position. Numbers underlined indicate initial year of service; in () indicate year term expires*

**Church Council** Doug May Chairperson (17), Bob Weeks Pastor, Chad Brown Lay Leader 14 , \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Trustees (Elected by Trustees), Sandy Rankin Chair of Finance (16), Joy Utberg President of UMW (17), Doug May President of UMM, Ruth Wright Membership Secretary 14 & Nurture Chair (17), **Ray Patterson Chair Outreach Ministries 18**, Corkie Collie Chair of Witness 14, Doug MacTavish, Lay Member of Annual Conf. 15, Nancy Coiner Chair of SPRC, Sheila Fair, Church Treasurer, Tessa Hickman, Youth Representative, Janice Bussard, President of Daycare Board 15, Donna May, Recording Secretary of Council (14), Shawna Hiner Chair of Age-Level Ministries 17, Judith Cariker, At-Large 15 , Jean Bean, At-Large 16, Amanda Forbes, At-Large 16, Don Swanson, At-Large 16

**Trustees** Larry Leonard (20), Ron McAllister (20), Jeff Harris (20), Dennis Garber (19), Charles Cook (19), Steve Sutton (19), Wayne Smith (18), Bernard Bean (18), K C Morlino (18)

**Staff-Parish Relations** Nancy Coiner (20), Mike Utberg (20), Doris Wright (20), Steve Sutton (19), Barbara Alexander (19), Amanda Forbes (19), Kim Chandler (18), Helen Sullivan (18), Janet McAllister (18), Lay Leaders, Lay Member Annual Conference

**Finance** Sandy Rankin Chairperson, District Steward (16), Chuck Wright Assistant Chair, Sheila Fair Treasurer, Lisa Shifflett Financial Secretary, Chad Brown Lay Leader, Doug MacTavish Lay Member of Annual Conf, Doug May, Chairperson of Council, \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Trustees (Elected by Trustees), Nancy Coiner Chair of SPRC, Larry Wagoner At-Large, Benny Craun At-Large, **Joyce Brubeck At-Large, Mary Jane Staples At-Large**, Counters: Carolyn Harlow, Sandy Rankin, Alisa Brooks, Missy Stacy, Donna May, Patti Propst

**Lay Leadership** Rev. Bob Weeks, Chair, **Wanda Broce (20), Bee Meyers (20), Gail Smith (20), Mel Holst (19)**, Steve Reeser (19), Scott VanLear (19), Fred Lackey (18), Irene Sutton (18), Tammy Shifflett (18), Lay Leaders

**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), \_\_\_\_\_ Worship Coordinator, Amanda Hall, Children's Ministries Director (Staff Position), Lydia Weeks Wedding Coordinator, Joy Tinsley Choir Director (Staff Position) Ruth Wright Membership Secretary 14

**Witness** Corkie Collie, Chairperson (14), Becky Reeser 14, Carla Harris 14. Ginger Blum Webmaster, Larry Propst 17, Shawna Hiner, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries & Advocate Keyperson 13

**Outreach** **Ray Patterson Chairperson 14**, 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 Coordinators

**Age-Level Ministries** Shawna Hiner Chairperson 17, Amanda Hall, Director of Children's Ministries (staff position), Carolyn & Bill Harlow, Youth Directors (staff position), Phyllis Mauzy, Nursery Director (staff position), Lilly Cash, Bereavement Meals 09 Asst. Adult/Family Min. 09, Mel Holst, Asst. Adult/Family Min. (10), Barbara Shuler Asst. Adult/Family Min.; Faye Wills, Carolyn Anson, Sandy McAllister, Salt & Peppers Ministries, Jean Bean, Apple Dumplings 14, Carolyn & Bill Harlow, Sr. UMY Leaders (staff position), Joy Utberg, UMW President, Doug May, UMM Pres 11

**Delegates to VA Annual Conference** Doug MacTavish, Lay Member of AC 15, Gayle Meeks, Alt. Lay Member of AC 15

**Child Protection Committee** Teresa Blum Chairperson 11, Bob Weeks Pastor, Amanda Hall Children's Coordinator, Carolyn Harlow Youth Director, Dana McCray Daycare Director, Nancy Coiner SPRC Chairperson 16

**Daycare Committee 2017** Janice Bussard, President (14), Kristen Landes, Parent Rep, Pam Crowe, Parent Rep, Larry Wagoner, Finance Rep, Betty Sutton, Steve Sutton, Gayle Meeks, Sheila Fair, Treasurer, Janet Myers, Staff-Parish Relations Committee Rep.



## Sermons for Advent

December 3—Save the Gift Wrap

December 10—Save the Receipt

December 17—Save the Memories

December 24—A Savior is Born

## Sermons for Christmas & the New Year

December 31—The Anchor Holds

January 7—The Vanity of Humanity

January 14—Is it Possible to Change?

January 21—The Things that Divide

January 28—Where He Leads Me

## VUMC Glove, Hat & Sock Christmas Tree



## Glove, Hat & Sock Christmas Tree

Bring your gifts of children's gloves, hats, and socks to the main church entrance and hang on the Christmas Tree. We'll give out the gifts after Christmas Eve.

## Highlights of VUMC Annual Conference Church Reports

### Presented at our church's November 12th Annual Conference:

**BOB WEEKS—SENIOR PASTOR:** *We have a group of amazing saints at Verona who want to make a difference for God's Kingdom and reach those who so desperately need to hear the good news of Jesus. Our leadership is visionary and we have many who gladly make sacrifices to God's glory. I look forward to the coming months and years as Verona UMC, Aisle 7 Fellowship, and the Verona Community Center touch thousands of lives in Verona and beyond. And as always, I thank my wife and family for their deep support of the pastoral ministry I began two decades ago.*

**CHAD BROWN—LAY LEADER:** *I believe we are, under the leadership of the Spirit, fulfilling the mandate and the primary mission of the church to reconcile the world to Jesus. I am convinced that the general spiritual health of the congregation is good mainly due to programs that are Bible-oriented, Christ-centered, and outwardly-focused....*

**SHAWNA HINER—OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR & CANDIDATE FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY:** *This place, this Holy place, has been my home for 41 years and I am honored to part of the body of Christ here. For 139 years the members have focused on the future and continued to walk in faith. My prayer tonight is that we continue on this journey...we continue to be the body of Christ, the light of the world to this community and beyond. I hope you will join me in my excitement to see God make a way in the wilderness in 2018....*

**KEVIN MCMULLEN—ASSOCIATE PASTOR, AISLE 7 FELLOWSHIP** *We have been very fortunate to have so many opportunities to work together with Verona UMC this year. Most recently, Aisle 7 was asked to head up making Brunswick Stew for the Verona UMC Fall Festival, with 100% of the proceeds being split between the Verona UMC Food Pantry, the church's Adult Missions Fund (like the trip to Cherokee), and the Verona Community Center. We had a lot of volunteers who donated, prepped, and made the stew. Everyone's hard work was rewarded as the stew sold out very quickly, helping to make the Fall Festival a huge success....*

**JOY UTBERG—PRESIDENT OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** *The Verona Unit of United Methodist Women has been an active unit this past year. We have two Circles (Esther and Rebecca) and nine at-large members. Each circle has its own unique personality but have common elements of fellowship, support and dedication to mission....For 2017, the Unit focused less on formal meetings and more on opportunities to serve others....*



# VERONA UMW



Remember your Prayer Partner

## United Methodist Women News

Christmas is just around the corner! The UMW has several fundraiser items that would make great gifts – for yourself or someone else! We will have Angel Baby books & Attractions Coupon books for sale thru Dec. 3rd. Let me or Millie Davis know if you want one!

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming UMW events listed below:

- Dec 9, 12:30 – VUMW Unit luncheon meeting (Officer Installation, Candle Burning) in the Fellowship Hall. We will have soup, crackers & fruit, followed by caroling & taking soup to homebound church members. Please let me, or your circle leader know if you can help with making a pot of vegetable or potato soup
- Feb 1 – UM Day @ General Assembly in Richmond
- Feb 25 – Verona UMW Unit meeting for Call to Prayer & Self-denial

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 other officers:

Gayle Meeks – VP	Linda Garber - Secretary
Millie Davis – Treasurer	Grace Dick – Spiritual Growth Coord.
Lydia Weeks – Reading Program	Joy Tinsley – Nominating

### VUMC UMW Circle Meetings

Esther Circle – meets 3rd Monday, 2:00pm at the church – Pat Foster, Chair

Rebecca Circle – meets 2nd Saturday, 10am at the church – 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  
Joy Utberg,  
Verona UMW Pres.

## You Are Invited to Christmas Carol with the UMW

You are invited to join the UMW on 12/9 for Christmas Caroling & soup delivery to some of our homebound & senior church members. You do not have to be a member of the UMW! We will meet at the church at 2 pm and travel together to each home. We will be using the church van, and several cars to ease any parking challenges. Please let me know if you want to join in to bring some Christmas cheer to our church members, so we can plan the travel logistics.

### Join the Worship Team

Gayle Meeks' term as chair of our worship team has ended and with her retirement we're seeking some new folks to get involved. The worship team at VUMC has the following responsibilities: Schedule ushers, communion assistants, and scripture readers for each service.

Decorate the worship area in an appropriate way for different seasons of the church year. Work with the pastor to ensure that our time in worship is an inspiring and faith-enhancing experience.

### Volunteering at the Verona Community Center

Do you like people? Do you have 3 hours or more a month to serve your neighbors at the Verona Community Center?

Volunteers (men and women) are needed to serve as Hosts in the self-serve No-Pay Café, providing free coffee and snacks, and free use of laptops and internet. Shift hours available Monday through Friday: 8:30 to 11:30, 11:30 to 2:30, or 2:30 to 5:30 (hosting for some weekend events also available)

## The Rest of the Story

**T**he great preacher of the Gospel Charles Spurgeon and his wife raised chickens. They sold the eggs, but kindly refused when anyone asked for the Spurgeons to give them the eggs for free. Soon there was a rumor going around that the Spurgeons were greedy and unkind. Despite this rumor that was circulating, Charles and his wife never said a thing in their defense, continuing to charge neighbors for their eggs.

After Spurgeon's wife died, the story got out that the couple had been using the funds from the egg sales to support two elderly widows. For years, the Spurgeons had endured criticism and gossip in order to keep their acts of charity private.

### Church Council Members - Mark Your Calendars

Our first meeting of 2018 will be held in Room 146 on Tuesday, January 16 at 7 p.m. All new and reelected 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 2018, are available from the church office.

### January 2018 Committee, Council & Work Area Meetings

*(list of committees and members on page 8)*

- ◆ Tuesday, January 2, 7 p.m., Room 146—Trustees
- ◆ Monday, January 8, 7 p.m., Room 146—SPRC
- ◆ Tuesday, January 9, 7 p.m., Room 146—Finance
- ◆ Tuesday, January 16, 7 p.m., Room 146—Church Council
- ◆ Thursday, January 25, 6:30 p.m., 146—Joint Work Areas (Nurture, Outreach, Witness, Age-Level)

### Thank You Church Leaders

**O**ur 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 2018.

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->

### Staff Christmas Gift

*"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 1 Thessalonians).*

We will be collecting donations for our annual church staff Christmas gift on Sundays, 12/3, 12/10, & 12/17. We have 18 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!*



Thelma Smith, Dot Hess, Patsy Dastoli, Ruth Weaver, Willie Lockridge, Ronald Smith, Margaret Helmick, Jean May, Inez Fultz, Charles Cook, Howard Rexrode, Elijah Smith, Don & Caroline McFaden, Glen Sutton, Roger Moats, Frances Johnson, Ray Smith, Harle Jackson, Jeff Spiggle, Joy Tinsley, Kitty Wine, Bill & Nancy Welliver, Farris Gwin, Wilma Shuey, Arlene Simpson, Corkie Collie, Scott Arbogast

## *Notes of Sincere Appreciation*

After many years with the blood drive ministry here at the church, I am retiring. I have enjoyed meeting and forming some wonderful relationships with so many people and I will miss that more than anything, but as we get older and have more health problems, we know its time to step back and let new blood (no pun intended) take over.

A special thanks to Farris Gwin for her help for many years. I could not have done this without Nancy Wheeler or Pete Reeves, they were with me at every blood drive. Thank you Linda Toler for all the phone call you made. Thank you Shawna for all your help and to my husband, Bill for all his help and support. I know Janet McAllister will do a wonderful job and that everyone will support her as they have me over the years.

*Helen Sullivan*

**Our Christian Love and Sympathy** are extended to Don McFaden in the loss of his Aunt Marian McFaden and Uncle Laymon McFaden.

**Our Christian Love and Sympathy** are extended to Mary Lam in the loss of her brother, Robert Morrison.

**Our Christian Love and Sympathy** are extended to the family of Louise Roadcap upon her recent passing.



*He who has not  
Christmas in his  
heart will never  
find it under a  
tree.*

*Roy L. Smith*

Pastor Bob and My Church Family,  
Thank you for the recognition and gift for working the Blood Drives. It was my pleasure to work with Helen and Pete. Our little group always had a good relationship that made the long days enjoyable!

*Love, Nancy Wheeler*

On behalf of the Esther Circle, I would like to thank everyone who contributed time, money, materials and prayers for supplying 25 girls in an orphanage in India with reusable products for their person hygiene care. These "moon bags" will allow girls to attend school every day of the month, giving them freedom and confidence denied to them before.

Part of the mission of UMW is to encourage and equip women and girls to become leaders. We invite any woman to join us. You don't have to be a member of the church. We have several ongoing projects, and sometimes, we even have fun!

*Linda Wiseman*

I would like to thank all of my church family for the cards, calls, visits, and prayers. When my brother, Robert Morrison passed away. Thank you to Pastor Bob for his call and for the visit with my family on family night. In God's Love, all is well. God bless each one of you.

*Bless you, Mary Lam*

Thank you for all the cards, calls, visits, vegetables, and flowers that were received this year. Thank you for thinking of me!

*Many Blessings, Dot Hess*

# Verona UMC Calendar of Events - December 2017-January 2018

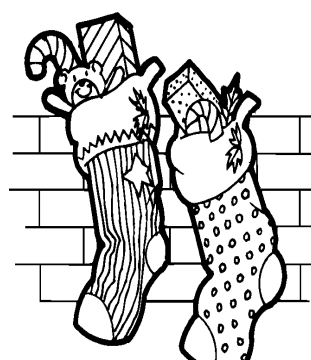
## DECEMBER

## JANUARY 2018

12/3	6:00pm Children's Christmas Program, BRMH	1/1	OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY
	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141	1/3	6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB
12/4	9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center		6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds
12/6	6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB		6:30pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds		7:15pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	6:30pm Combined Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	1/7	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141	1/8	9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center
12/9	10:00am Rebecca Circle, RM 146	1/10	6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB
	2:00pm Cookies with Santa-Community Center		6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds
12/10	6:00pm Choir Christmas Program-Sanctuary		6:30pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141		7:15pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
12/11	9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center		8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
12/13	6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB	1/13	TBD Youth Dinner & Talent Show-BRMH
	6:00pm Scouts Court of Honor-BRMH	1/14	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
	6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds	1/15	9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center
	NO CHOIR REHEARSAL	1/16	7:00pm Church Council, RM 146
	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141	1/17	6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB
12/15	S & P Trip to Wytheville		6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds
12/17	5:00pm Christmas Sing Along-Community Center		6:30pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141		7:15pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
12/20	6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB	1/18	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
	6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds	1/20	7:00pm Verona Ruritans, BRMH (Youth serving)
	NO CHOIR REHEARSAL	1/21	Pinewood Derby, BRMH (All Day)
	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141	1/22	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
12/21	7:00pm Verona Ruritans-BRMH (Youth serving)	1/22	9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center
12/24	10:00am <b>ONE WORSHIP SERVICE</b>	1/24	6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB
	5:00pm <b>Children's Christmas Eve-Community Center</b>		6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds
	7:30pm <b>Christmas Eve Service-Sanctuary</b>	1/27	6:30pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	11:00pm Christmas Eve Service-Sanctuary	1/28	7:15pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141	1/29	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141
<b>12/25-12/29</b>	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE WEEK</b>	1/31	9:00am Pastor's Prayer Meeting, Community Center
12/31	Regular Worship Services at 8:30 & 11am/Sun. Sch. 10am		6:00pm TOPS, RM 143AB
	8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141		6:00pm Evening Prayer Meeting, Golden Deeds
			6:30pm 11:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
			7:15pm 8:30 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
			8:00pm AA , RM 302 & AL-ANON, RM 141

## December & January Birthdays

12/1	Dennis Woolfrey	12/13	Farris Gwin	12/27	Willa Hickman	1/8	Larry Mauzy	1/26	Doug Shifflett
	Tammy Woods		Jerry VanLear		Ron McAllister	1/9	Mariah McAllister		Stacy Dunsmore
12/3	Cathi Earhart		Kara Hodge	12/28	Eddie Mazingo		Wendy Sailer		Cole Sailer
	Jeff Hodge	12/14	Mary Karicofe	12/29	Nick Bauman	1/10	Rachel Lambert	1/28	Gene Van Pelt
12/4	Peg Jones	12/15	Gabrielle Halpin		Dot Hess	1/12	Paige Sailer	1/29	Millie Davis
	Robin Riley	12/16	Blake Hohenstein	12/30	Rita Halley	1/13	Marie Cason	1/30	Amy Wiseman
	Jacob Alexander		Tyler Hohenstein		Patsy Rhinehart	1/14	Zack Gurkin		Dave Alexander
12/5	Tracy Hiner		Brayden Quick	12/31	Faye Wills		Katelyn Neighbors		Don Alexander
12/6	Emma Sailer		Nancy Welliver		Fred Lackey		Teresa Bishop		Amy Moore
12/7	Bill Welliver	12/17	Wendell Alexander		Cameron Little		Derek Shifflett		Pam Arbogast
	Kay Lanasa		Anzie Linger		Alix Davis	1/15	Tammy Drega	1/31	Linda Custer
	Berkeley Hines	12/18	Corkie Collie		Devyn Riley	1/16	Tanya Fitzpatrick		
12/9	Bryan Lambert	12/20	Amber Wagner	12/31	Joy Utberg		Peggy Dunsmore		
	Garrett Stacy	12/21	Mike Chittum		Lydia Weeks		Marci Lackey		
12/10	Luke Jennings	12/22	Steven Powers		<b>JANUARY</b>		Debbie Link		
	Robert Shreckhise		Fritz Horisk	1/1	Derek Jackson	1/17	Matthew Mazingo		
	Eric Gibbons	12/23	Debbie Hilbert	1/2	William Bussard		Boyd Glover		
12/11	Don Jennings	12/24	Malissa Reed		Susan Allen	1/19	Joe Ruoto		
	Colton Hisey	12/26	Elaine Huffman	1/3	Cassie Alger		Kitty Wine		
12/12	Colby Moore		Larry Wills	1/5	Harry Lockridge	1/20	Dennis Garber		
	Colton Thornton		Autumn Hitt		Grace Lambert		Ruth Reeves		
			Joan Perdue	1/6	Clay Lambert		Galen Halpin		
			Brooke Hodge		Sue MacTavish		Jordan Blosser		
			Carolyn Bean		Bob Evers	1/21	Max Jones		
			Carson Hall		Becky Gilkerson		George Mazingo		
							Robbie Wiseman		





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:**  
 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.

**WINTER WORD SEARCH**



Created by  
 Bob Weeks  
 Great Falls Herald  
 2010

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

**KID'S KORNER**

- See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.
- |            |              |              |              |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Snow    | 5. Shovel    | 9. Slippery  | 13. Scarf    |
| 2. Snowman | 6. Cold      | 10. Slide    | 14. Hat      |
| 3. Winter  | 7. Freezing  | 11. Sledding | 15. Earmuffs |
| 4. Weather | 8. Snowflake | 12. Skating  | 16. Mittens  |