

# The CHIMES

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A publication of Franconia United Methodist Church

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

### Community Barbecue on June 8<sup>th</sup>

Don't miss the Community Barbecue on Sunday, June 8, from 3—7 PM!

The members of the community are invited to come and enjoy the afternoon with members of Franconia United Methodist Church.

Barbecue, hamburgers, hot dogs, and dishes from church members will provide the nourishment, a praise band will provide music, and games for children and adults will provide the fun! Bring family and friends as we welcome our community to FUMC.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of laughter and fellowship! Bring a dish to share and sign up to help. Bring lawn chairs!

Moon bounce , face painting, three-legged race, and more . . .

**Outreach** is about getting to know our neighbors and about our neighbors getting to know us. To be effective, everybody in the church needs to get involved! What fun we can have together!

### Barbecue Features Sean Niehoff Band

On the Facebook page of Sean Niehoff: June 8, **Worship Concert and Picnic, Franconia United Methodist Church, Alexandria.**

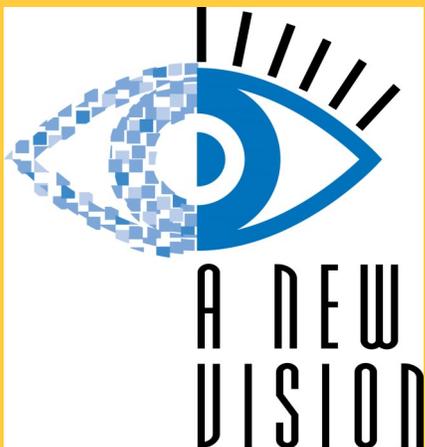
Indeed, Sean and his Christian Rock Band will be providing entertainment on Sunday for the community barbecue.



### Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, June 8, at the barbecue to help monitor the moon bounce and to assist with games. You can sign up to help for one or more 30-minute periods of time.

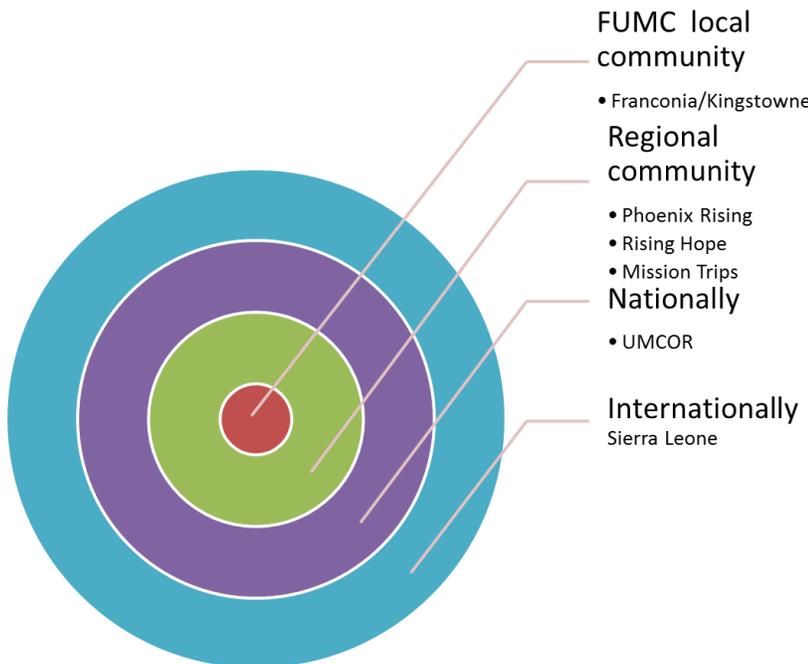
If you are willing to help with preparation, clean-up, and/or to assist with the games, please contact Janet Hedrick or Pat Hobbs.



**Franconia United Methodist Church is a multi-generational, Christ-centered community called to reach out to the young adults and families in the Franconia/Kingstowne area. We welcome all and together respond to the challenges of daily life through worship, study, and fellowship. As led by the Holy Spirit, through dynamic and innovative ministries, we will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

As we implement the new vision and continue the outreach efforts of FUMC, we begin at the center of the diagram with those closest to FUMC and expand outward from the local community. We see our top priority as the local community and the ability to go outward will be determined by the resources that are available.

## The FUMC Community



### FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. What led to the decision that Franconia United Methodist Church (FUMC) needed a new vision statement?**
- A. The Church Council held a retreat in 2013 and started a conversation about the “state of our church” and asked these questions:
- Why does FUMC exist today?
  - For WHOM does FUMC exist today?
  - What is FUMC’s mission field?
- Q. Why is a Vision Statement needed?**
- A. A vision statement describes succinctly the ways in which we as a church will strive to meet our mission. It will help focus our energies

and resources in a way that is unique to Franconia UMC, setting us apart from the many other churches in our neighborhood. One way to illuminate the vision statement is the need to have a solid balance between in-reach and out-reach. In the words of Reverend Kip McCormick, “A church that does all in-reach helps no one but itself. A church that does all out-reach doesn’t have the spiritual depth so that its members can ride the wild waves of this fallen world in which we live. There has to be a solid balance between in-reach and out-reach. . . .”

Continued on page 8



### Looking For A Few Good Men!!

United Methodist Men meet monthly for fellowship, devotions, and breakfast on the Fourth Saturday of the month in Cokesbury Hall at 8:00 AM. The men help members of the Church with small household projects and sponsor events, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Mother’s Day Lunch, and group outings to baseball games. To learn more, contact Thom Hostetter 703-971-9107.



## “I give thanks every time I think of you!”

By: Pastor Catharine Guest

“I give thanks every time I think of you!” This is the way Paul so often begins his letters. He gives thanks for those he leads and serves. Each of his congregations experienced times of challenge and heart ache – but they soared for God’s glory at just the right time – in just the right ways – in fulfilling just the right needs – as God gave them the power to do so. Such can also be said of the community of faith at FUMC as well. If Paul had had the privilege of serving and leading this congregation, praise would have ever been on his lips and soared from his heart! I give thanks to God for all of you!

Over the past months and years, FUMC has experienced both challenge and victory, endured loss and celebrated renewal. We have been led by God to a new vision for our future ministry in the community. We are intentionally becoming the hands and feet of Christ to those in our backyard as we partner with Franconia Elementary School, as we reach out to the singles and families in the Franconia/Kingstowne area; as we offer our gifts and talents to the homeless and struggling in our state and nation as God leads us to do so; as we support those in the mission field in Sierra Leone. God is opening our eyes to focus on all the glorious opportunities that are right outside

our doors – opportunities to equip and empower our community to succeed in this world to be sure, but most importantly to come to know our Lord and become part of the family of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ! As we fling continue to open our doors, just as we literally did during our worship services on Easter Sunday – our community of faith will grow for God’s glory, His light will blaze and bring hope to even the most despairing souls, His love will encompass even the most hardened heart and lives will be transformed – not because of us, but because of Christ working in and through us – all for His glory.

Scripture says that by our fruits we shall be known – and we are becoming increasingly known as the church that lives what the gospel proclaims as we serve our community with exuberant excellence. We are serving our Lord with every breath we breathe, with every word we speak, with every step we take – with no agenda of our own – all we do is in order to live into Christ’s agenda – an agenda of love and healing, of peace and reconciliation, an agenda of new beginnings and new hope! And I give thanks for you! We have heard the good news of Easter this year and I pray we will continue to walk with the boldness of the resurrection into the community around us as we live into Christ’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

**Thanks be to God for FUMC!**



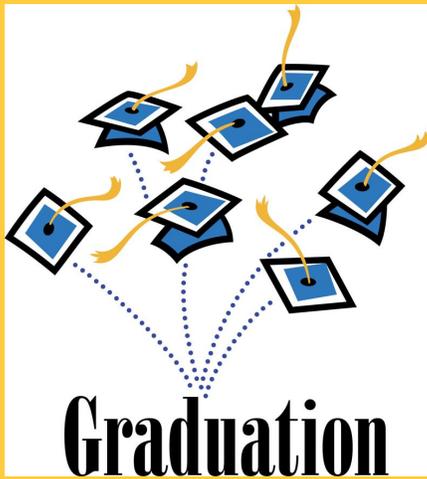
L to R: Sharon Sheldon, Rev. Dr. Benjamin Pratt, Barbara Lawrence

A Caregiver Support Forum was held at FUMC on Saturday, May 31. The leader for the forum was Rev. Dr. Benjamin Pratt, a retired United Methodist Pastoral Counselor who has spent nine years in a caregiving relationship with Judith, his wife of 51 years.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bruce Bartolain’s granddaughter Lily in a prayer shawl from Franconia United Methodist Church. (See article on page 5.)



We celebrate the accomplishments of three young adults from our church family as they earned degrees and diplomas from their schools.

**Ryan Sheldon** received his Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics from Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Virginia on May 10, 2014.

**Sussie Owusu-Ansah** will graduate from Lee High School. She attended All God's Children Preschool, and has been involved with mission trips, Vacation Bible School, and has served as an acolyte, lay reader, and usher. Sussie has been active in our youth group and is currently the president of the group. Sussie is the captain of her school tennis team, and is in the Red Cross Club and a member of the National Honor Society. Sussie wants to pursue the study of medicine to become a neonatologist.

**Evan Sheldahl** will graduate from Edison High School. He will attend the University of Virginia in the fall to major in astronomy. For years Evan was a member of the Franconia Winds, and he served as an acolyte, lay reader, and usher.

## Do You Have ANTs?

Do you have ANTs? Or do you know someone who has ANTs? No, I'm not talking about those pesky little critters that show up in our kitchens at various times of the year. And, I'm not talking about those unwelcome visitors to a picnic on a lovely summer day. I'm talking about ANTs – **Automatic Negative Thoughts.**

A wonderful author, Richard Rohr, in his book, "Finding God in Contemplation" describes ANTs as a sneaky, often unconscious way of derailing new ideas, new thoughts, or anything that might result in a change to the status quo.

In my role with the Outreach Ministry and living in to our new vision for FUMC, I sometimes encounter ANTs, not only in myself, but in others in the church. I'm not suggesting we "accept all" and go willy nilly about



our lives as we further God's kingdom, but simply that we not automatically react to anything we encounter in a negative way. There are so many exciting things God is leading us to in this church, and each requires prayerful thought, planning, and discussion. But, how joyful the thought of not hitting the "ANT wall" right out of the box!

If you have ANTs, please pray with me that God will transform our hearts to the point where our first response is always a resounding, "Thank you, Lord! And yes, we will pursue this gift!"

**Pat Hobbs**  
Outreach Ministry



### Cindy Langan, Finance Chair

Franconia United Methodist Church continues to be blessed by your generous support.

As of April 30, 2014, we had a surplus for offerings over budgeted expenditures of \$11,681. Our reserves are up to \$26,243. The Capital Fund balance as of April 30<sup>th</sup> is \$17,569.

Additionally, we received Lenten offerings of \$1,997 which will support the missions of Nancy Robinson our missionary in Sierra Leone.

While April was a very strong month, May offerings through May 11 were running a little behind.

Please continue to support Franconia UMC financially and with your prayers, presence, service and witness so that we can continue to move forward in the direction that God is leading us to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world!

#### MARCH 31, 2014

- Surplus of Offerings in excess of Expenditures: \$7,403
- Reserves: \$21,065
- Capital Fund: \$17,115

#### APRIL 30, 2014

- Surplus of Offerings in excess of Expenditures: \$11,681
- Reserves: \$26,243
- Capital Fund: \$17,569

## What is Annual Conference?

When you hear the term "annual conference," it could be referring to any one of three things. The annual conference is a regional body, an organizational unit AND a yearly meeting.

### Regional body

The annual (sometimes referred to as 'regional') conference is described by the church's Book of Discipline as the "basic unit" of the church. An annual conference may cover an entire state, only part of the state, or even parts of two or more states.

### Organizational body

The annual conference has a central office and professional staff that coordinate and conduct ministry and the business of the conference. It likely has a director of connectional ministries, treasurer, directors of program areas (such as camping), communications director, and other staff as deemed appropriate for the annual

conference and as required by the Book of Discipline. Clergy and laypersons may also serve on conference boards, commissions and committees.

### Annual Conference sessions

Each year - usually in June - all clergy members and an equal number of lay members selected from the local churches attend their conference's Annual Conference session. They meet together to worship, fellowship, and conduct the business of the conference. During these sessions, which may last 3-5 days, members of the conference hear reports of past and ongoing work; adopt future goals, programs and budgets; ordain clergy members as deacons and elders; and elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences (every 4 years). The bishop presides over these meetings.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sandra Ackley, Chair

Do you have a friend or relative who is having a problem? It doesn't have to be a medical problem, just something that prayers may help. Let the Prayer Shawl committee know. Contact Sandra or Suzanne Ackley at the 11 AM service or Debbie Gordon at the 8:30 AM service.

Those who knit or crochet who would like to make shawls are always welcome. Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 1 PM in the small kitchen. (The group will take a break over the summer with the last meeting on Wednesday, June 11 until the group resumes in September.) Monetary donations to the fund are also appreciated, or gift cards to Michael's or AC Moore.

Since the ministry began in February 2013, 68 prayer shawls have given away! Shawls are donated whenever prayers may help.

Kelli Haynie (wife of the Ackley's nephew Allen) and her brother, Kendall Mills—at Massachusetts General Hospital on April 25, 2014, three days after Kendall donated a kidney to Kelli!

He had just been released. She would be staying a few more days. She is wearing a prayer shawl that was sent to her from Franconia United Methodist Church.



The prayer shawl ministry in action!



1. Why is Flag Day observed on June 14? The Second Continental Congress first approved a national flag on June 14, 1777.
2. The idea of Flag Day is believed to have first originated in 1885 in Fredonia, Wisconsin when a school teacher began celebrating Flag Birthday.
3. Flag Day did not become official until 1916. That year, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that established a nationwide observance of Flag Day on June 14.
4. The colors of Old Glory have meaning. Red stands for hardiness and valor. White symbolizes purity and innocence. Blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.
5. Six American flags are on the moon—planted by crews from Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17.

## Virginia Annual Conference Session

The 2014 session of the Virginia Annual Conference will be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, VA, Friday, June 20, to Sunday, June 22. Laity and Clergy sessions will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday. First plenary session begins at 3 p.m. Ending time should be around noon on Sunday.



### 4 Cans 4 Conference

Franconia United Methodist is participating in "4 Cans 4 Conference." Members of Annual Conference are encouraged to bring at least four cans of food or boxes of dry food to the Virginia Annual Conference. Please bring canned goods to share with the hungry in the VA Conference.

#### Types of Canned Goods Needed

- Can of meat or fish
- Can of fruit or veggies
- Can of soup or stew
- Can with a pop-top for easy opening

**Donations can be left in the appropriate bins in Cokesbury Hall.**



### Kits for Conference

We are sending health kits to VA Annual Conference which will go to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Donations of the following items (new) are needed:

- Hand towels, 15x25 to 17x27 (no kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels)
- Wash cloths
- Combs (sturdy and at least 8 inches long)
- Metal nail files or clippers (no emery boards/toenail clippers)
- Bar soap in original packaging (3 oz. or larger. No Ivory soap due to moisture content)
- Adult sized toothbrushes in original packaging

- Band-aids (3/4 to 1 inch)
- Gallon sized ziploc bags
- \$2.00 per kit (\$1 for toothpaste and \$1 for shipping)

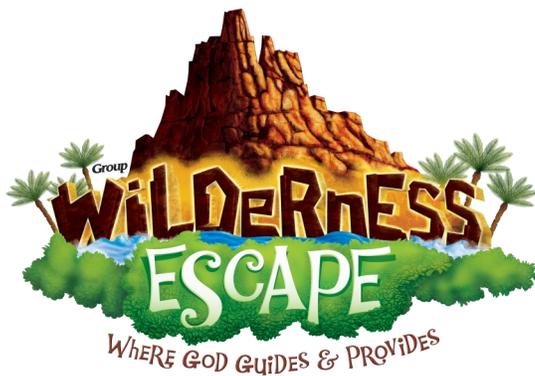


Bishop Young Jin Cho as he presides at the Virginia Annual Conference Session on June 20—22, those attending the Annual Conference Session, and especially Pastor Catharine Guest and Lay Leader Thom Hostetter as they represent Franconia United Methodist Church at Annual Conference. Please pray that God will bless them and guide them as they consider the important decisions that will come before them during the session.

## Vacation Bible School July 21—25

**July 21—25 9 AM—NOON**

Vacation Bible School is less than 3 months away so be sure to go online to the FUMC website and register so your children don't miss this exciting adventure, Wilderness Escape, with Moses and the Israelites! We will be focusing on Trusting God as we cross the Red Sea, receive manna & quail, fight the Amalekites, remember Passover, receive the 10 Commandments with Moses and his friend, Malachi! There will be music, singing, games, crafts (lots of amazing ones!), tribe time, snacks, and one-on-one time with Moses in his tent!!! If you have any questions email Mende Wentzel at [dcym@franconiaumc.org](mailto:dcym@franconiaumc.org).



## Servants for VBS

Vacation Bible School is July 21—25 and openings are available for you, whether you can work one day, two days or more.

**Classroom Teacher Assistants**—Committed to every day\* Number needed: 3—5

**Game Assistants**—Committed to every day\* [GAMES WILL BE IN COKEBURY DURING SNACK TIME] Number needed: 2—3

**Snack Co-Coordinator**—Committed to every day Number needed: 1

**Daily Snack Helpers**—Commitment for one day or as many days as you are willing to help—Snack time in Cokesbury. Number needed: 5—10

**"Moses Tent" Helper**— Youth will be acting out the roles of Moses and Malachi. Helper is needed to set up between groups and to direct the classes so Moses and Malachi can stay in character.

Please respond by June 15 to Mende Wentzel at [dcym@franconiaumc.org](mailto:dcym@franconiaumc.org).

*\* Flexible scheduling if not available on all five days.*

## Want to be in Ministry with Children and Youth?



As our Children and Youth programs continue to grow, we have plenty of opportunities for others to become a part of this ministry. Please consider how you might help by serving as an adult assistant on Sunday Evenings with the Youth or Tweens or on Sunday Mornings with Sunday School or Children's Church. We are looking for adults who love the Lord and want to be in ministry with His children and youth. Mende Wentzel, DCYM

**FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions**

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Q. What does an effective Vision Statement look like?**

- A. The ideal Vision Statement has several parts, and our new vision statement contains each of them:
- Describes who we are: “a multi-generational, Christ-centered community.”
  - Focuses our outreach efforts on a specific group of individuals: “young adults and families in the Franconia/Kingstowne area.”
  - Describes what we are called to do: to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
  - Describes how we will do this: we will “together respond to the challenges of daily life through worship, study, and fellowship.”

**Q. What does the Vision Statement mean for me if I am not a young adult and/or I do not live in the Franconia/Kingstowne area.**

- A. The vision statement clearly states that FUMC is “multi-generational, Christ-centered community” and that “we welcome all and together respond to the challenges of daily life through worship, study, and fellowship.” Everyone in the church is important. The “inward” things that the church does once a person is “in the body” are not going to stop, they are just not part of the outward-focused mission. But, while we provide nurture and care to the members of the congregation, we also have the responsibility to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Furthermore, as a person “already in the body”, you have a very important role: being one of those who helps to execute this vision.

**Q. Why the focus on young adults and families in the Franconia/Kingstowne area?**

- A. The vision statement states we will “reach out” to the young adults and families in the Franconia/Kingstowne area. To be successful in outreach, we needed to focus our efforts. Otherwise, the efforts to reach others would be scattered and much less effective. As the Vision Team looked outside the church at the people in the community, we saw many young adults and children. When the Vision Team interviewed the members of the congregation, we heard older members talking about the desire to have young adults and children in our midst. The focus for outreach on young adults and families was chosen for these reasons.

**Q. What is meant by outreach or “reach out”?**

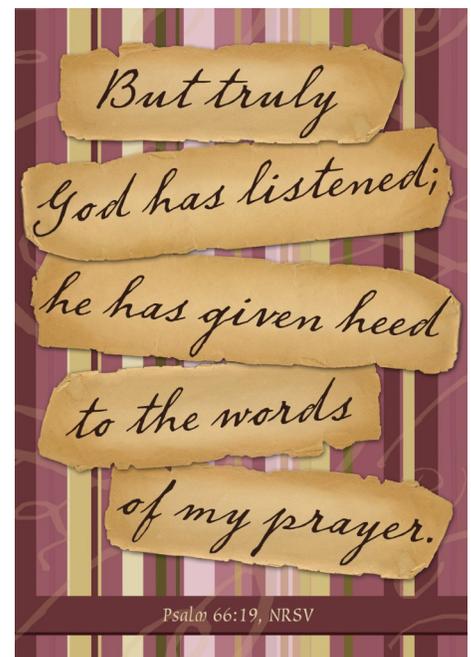
- A. The definition of outreach is “help and advice provided without people asking.” We want to get to know the members of our community. We believe as they get to know us, they will want to join with us in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The first step in evangelism is building relationships through help and support to our neighbors, and it leads to the ultimate goal: bringing them to know Christ. We have already started our efforts. The *Thanksgiving Dinner* and the *Night in Bethlehem* in 2013 are two examples. The upcoming community Barbecue on June 8 is another example. In addition, our assistance to the Franconia Elementary School is a means for reaching out into the community. We believe that young adults and families will find FUMC to be a warm and welcoming place. For many families, who live a significant distance from their relatives, they want a church family that can provide the multi-generational experience FUMC can provide.

**Q. What should I do if I have concerns about being excluded by the vision statement?**

- A. Please let a member of the Vision Implementation Team know. Members of the team will be happy to answer your specific questions. Remember everybody is welcome and can play a part!

**Vision Implementation Team**

**Members:** Glenn Sutton (team leader); Bruce Bartolain; Cindy Langan; Pat Hobbs; Sharon Sheldon; Suzanne Ackley; Lisa Dickinson; Sharon Pappajohn; Keisha Miller; Janet Hedrick; and Pastor Catharine Guest (Advisor).





**Plans for Summer 2014**

The Youth of FUMC started the month of May with a trip to Camp Highroad for the District Methodist Retreat. It was a great time together and a wonderful opportunity to meet youth from other churches. The teaching and fellowship were really great, but the most exciting part was the “ropes” course. Challenging and overcoming the various obstacles was a real learning and growing experience for everyone. And now, it’s time to look ahead to June and summer.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Youth will host a party to celebrate the new confirmands and welcome them to the Youth Group. And June 8<sup>th</sup> will also be a busy day as the Youth will be doing the Missions Breakfast before the 11:00 service, when the high school and college graduates will be recognized.

This year, from our Youth Group, Sussie Owusu-Onsa will be graduating from Lee High and our prayers will go with her as she enters the University of Virginia in the Fall.

Other plans for the Youth this summer include attending Kingsfest at

Kings Dominion in June, redecorating the Youth Room and helping at VBS (21-25 July – it’ll be an exciting Wilderness Escape with Moses and the Israelites as we learn about trusting God). But don’t forget the other highlight of the summer – the Youth Missions Trip to the SPY (Summer Projects for Youth) program at Fieldstone Methodist Church in Blacksburg, VA, July 5-11. Please keep our Youth and all these events in your prayers!

Mende Wentzel, DCYM



**Summer Sunday School**

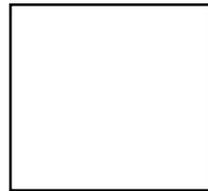
Sunday School for ages 3 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will continue this summer upstairs in Cokesbury behind the divider at 9:45 am.



**Learning and Sharing Together**

Our Children’s Church has been growing this spring. We now have between 8 and 13 children, ages 3 years through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We have a brand new sign for the divider in Cokesbury (thank you Roxanne!) where we meet and lots of new faces in ministry with the children. We sing, hear a Bible Story and often times act it out, have activities, and make a craft. It is a wonderful learning, sharing time together.

Mende Wentzel, DCYM



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## Check Your Calendar

### Sunday, June 8:

- Mission Breakfast by Youth
- Recognition of Graduates
- Teacher Appreciation
- Community Barbecue

**Thurs., June 12:** Church Council Meeting

**Saturday, June 14:** Flag Day

**Sunday, June 15:** Father's Day

**Friday, June 20:** FUMC at Nationals vs. Braves Baseball Game

**Friday, June 20—Sunday, June 22:** Virginia Annual Conference

**Sunday, June 29:** Welcome Reception for New Members

## Report from Sierra Leone

Nancy Robinson, our missionary in Sierra Leone, and her husband Kip report that they had an unexpected trip home to Virginia to gather and celebrate the life of Nancy's mother, Beth Griffin, who died April 14th, 2014, one week short of her 91st birthday.

On May 24, Nancy and Kip rejoiced with the people of Sierra Leone at the Re-opening of Rotifunk Hospital. Kip oversaw the refurbishing of the staff house, home to Dr. Gamanga, and the rehabilitation of the whole hospital.

Once a thriving hospital in a central location for many in the interior of Sierra Leone, established in the late 1870s by the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the hospital was completely destroyed during the rebel war. The early missionaries gave their lives to bring Christ through medical care to the people of Sierra Leone. The reconstructed facility will again bring healing to places of suffering.

Training for Evangelists and Lay Pastors in all eleven Districts is in full gear and reaching remote areas.

The Robinsons were featured in the April issue of the *Virginia Conference Advocate*. Nancy and Kip will be in the United States later this summer. FUMC plans on hosting a community-wide event to allow Nancy and Kip to share their stories.

Watch for details in upcoming issues of *The Chimes*.