



## *The Annual Church Picnic*

**Sunday, September 11  
4–7 p.m.**

**Dan Daniel Park, Shelter #17**

Fun for all ages!

*Our youth will be leading games and activities  
for children.*

Visit with your church family!

Bring a chair.

*Hamburgers, hot dogs, and sides  
will be provided.*

We ask that you bring two things:

1. Bottled water, Gatorade, or a two-liter soft drink. We will provide cups and ice.
2. A packaged dessert. This will help to keep our desserts as safe as possible. Also, leftovers can be used at Wednesday Dinners or with the youth program.

A sign-up sheet is outside the office.

If you can't sign up at church, please email or call the church office (434.793.6824) to say you're coming. This will help us with preparations.

We know that schedules change—if you haven't signed up but find that you can come, please do!

We will prepare for extras.

*We look forward to seeing you  
at the picnic!*

## **Wednesday Dinners to Resume!**

**Wednesday, September 21**

**Serving time: 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.**

**Cost – \$8 adults; \$5 children; \$24 max per family**



Our first meal, on September 21, will be covered dish. (No charge.)



Come share your favorite dish and enjoy fellowship with our church family!

***Children's Choir will resume on September 21!***



**On September 28, Sue Davis will prepare her famous meatloaf.**

After dinner, Rev. Paul Baker will share some important information about our Visioning process.

And Rev. Jennifer Coffey will begin a three-week Bible study. She is the former pastor of Fairview UMC. We enjoyed hearing Jennifer preach recently at Mount Vernon.



*The men of the church will be responsible for all aspects of one Wednesday night per month.*

*If you would like to help in the kitchen with meal prep and clean up, please contact Joyce Underwood (email: [uwood517@comcast.net](mailto:uwood517@comcast.net); cell: 434.548.1444). Thank you!*

## A Visioning Process for Mount Vernon United Methodist Church

Jesus commissioned his followers to “Go...and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you...”<sup>1</sup> As United Methodists, we live “in a covenant of grace under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we participate in the first fruits of God’s coming reign and pray in hope for its full realization on earth as in heaven.”<sup>2</sup>

*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* rightly declares that “the local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs,” adding that “the local church is a strategic base” wherein members, “under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,... help people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live daily lives in light of their relationship with God.”<sup>3</sup>

If the local church is to be effective in response to Christ’s great commission, it behooves the congregation, along with church leadership and staff, strategically to consider how best to build God’s enduring kingdom within the context in which the local church functions. In this vein, every local church must recognize that the world around the church building is ever-changing. Thus, systems must be established to assure that the church can be nimble in reacting to the context in which it exists.

Mount Vernon United Methodist Church has an enviable record of working faithfully toward the full realization of God’s eternal kingdom. Yours is a congregation located in the heart of Danville and thus is situated to play a significant role as the city seeks to emerge from a difficult period in its history.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 28:19–20

<sup>2</sup> *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (Discipline)*, p.47

<sup>3</sup> *Discipline*, p. 147

That period has also coincided with challenges for all mainline churches, as membership has declined over the years and revenues have also decreased. Further, the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has forced churches to adapt in ways unanticipated.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it is an opportune moment for Mount Vernon to take a step back, consider your strengths and opportunities in ministry, and to coalesce behind a renewed vision for ministry into the future. I have been engaged by your Church Council to assist with this process

(I have worked with these types of processes for over thirty years. Further, a steering committee, broadly representative of your membership, has been appointed. Over the past couple of months, we have met to consider how best to move forward with this process, and to engage in a time of prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we

discern how best to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In the weeks ahead, I will be speaking at a worship service, at a Wednesday night dinner, and in other venues to get to know you better and to listen as you describe your hopes and dreams for the ministries of Mount Vernon. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

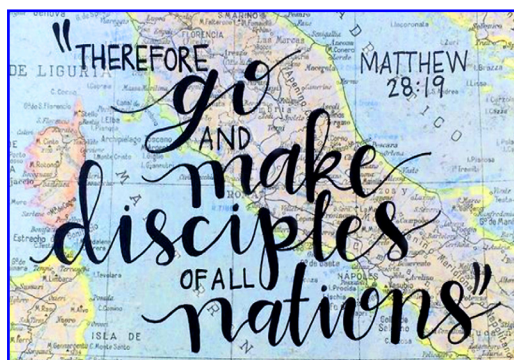
You also will have another opportunity to complete the membership questionnaire that has already been distributed. And, further, if you have thoughts or concerns as the process unfolds, I would invite you to let me know. My email address is [paulbaker@vaumc.org](mailto:paulbaker@vaumc.org)

I thank you for all you do on behalf of God’s kingdom, and I look forward to working with you as we prayerfully discern the next steps for your mission field.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Paul S. Baker

Retired pastor, Virginia Conference



## It's time to register for the 2022 Danville CROP Hunger Walk!

Since 2008, our walk has raised \$223,595.00 to fight hunger and extreme poverty through CWS\* and God's Storehouse, our local food pantry. Our Mount Vernon team is always the largest team and raises the most money for hunger! We typically have 50 to 60 Mount Vernon participants.

The Walk will be **Sunday, October 2, at 3 p.m.**, starting at Ballou Park. Join people of all ages as we walk one mile or 5k (3.1 miles) – rain or shine. If you are unable to walk, please donate to our Mount Vernon team!



*Celebrating at a Danville CROP Walk with GWHS football players and West African dancing. Join the fun this year!*

You can raise money in two ways:

### 1. Cash or checks – Register at the table outside the church office and pick up a donation envelope.

Have donors make checks payable to “Mount Vernon UMC” with CROP Walk in the memo line.



### 2. Register online, make your online donation, and raise money virtually!

Go to [crophungerwalk.org/danville](https://crophungerwalk.org/danville). Click on “Join or Start a Team.” Click on the Mount Vernon team and register.

\*Church World Service (CWS) is a leader in fighting hunger and extreme poverty around the world:

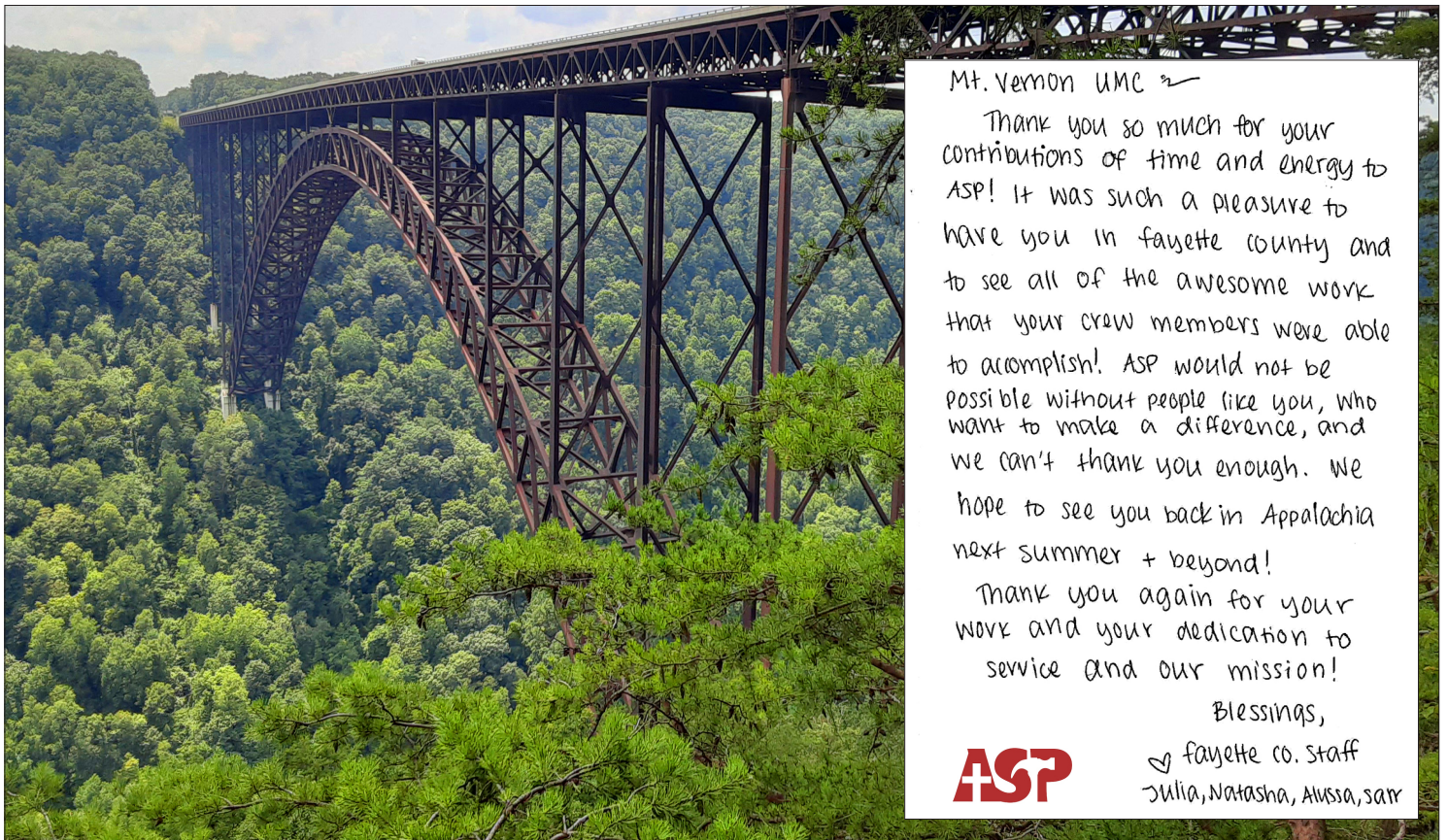
- More than 100,000 Ukrainian refugees have fled to Muldova, where CWS is partnering to staff refugee assistance centers, to provide emergency and hygiene supplies (in conjunction with UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief), and to set up emergency temporary schools.
- CWS has welcomed 7,644 Afghan refugees to the U.S. this year.
- CWS continues to provide disaster relief assistance in Haiti and is hard at work in Kenya and around the world.

## Regular youth meetings have resumed!

Our Younger Youth (grades 5–8) and High School Youth (grades 9–12) meet each Sunday night, 6–7:30 p.m.

Our leaders are Dent Holden, Leslie Mantiply, John Ranson, and Beth Bauman.





Mt. Vernon UMC

Thank you so much for your contributions of time and energy to ASP! It was such a pleasure to have you in Fayette County and to see all of the awesome work that your crew members were able to accomplish! ASP would not be possible without people like you, who want to make a difference, and we can't thank you enough. We hope to see you back in Appalachia next summer + beyond!

Thank you again for your work and your dedication to service and our mission!

Blessings,

♡ Fayette Co. Staff  
Julia, Natasha, AUSA, Sara



July 27, 2022

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – *Thank you!*

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, *you* are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms – sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and peace,  
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

Gift amount:  
\$3,875.00

Many thanks to the Mount Vernon Church family for generous donations to the Ukraine Relief Efforts through UMCOR. A check for \$3,875.00 was sent to UMCOR.



Our Sunday morning nursery care-givers are Lude Labieville (at left) and Ateaka Harris. Both Lude and Ateaka have extensive training and experience with our precious babies and toddlers. Lude is currently enrolled in the Averett School of Nursing.

Were you unable to attend the in-person worship service on Sunday? You may make your offering at any time by visiting the church website, [mtvernonumc.org](http://mtvernonumc.org) and clicking "Online Giving."




With the help of the Averett Basketball team, Children's House parents, and Mount Vernon volunteers, old mulch was removed and new mulch was installed on the playground. We now have a fresh, thick padding of mulch to insure the safety of our children!



## September Birthdays

1 Jesse Mayhew, III Charles Sampson	Kelly Grogan Jordan	17 Sidney Harris	25 Eddie Mitchell Carol Williamson
2 Phyllis Acker Thomas Underwood, Jr.	9 Cathy Darkis Joan Marley	18 Brendan deAristizabal Jerry Franks Wayne Wall	26 Madi Barker 27 Pat Farley
3 Chris Griffith DeDe Moyer	10 Saunders Milligan Gene Saunders	19 Mark Leggett	28 Dawn Davis Jean Vernon
4 Jeff Clifton	11 Jeff Rudder Dorothy Stephens Betty Yates	21 Jennifer Caldwell Lyn Joyce Lindsay Payne	29 Linda Burton Linbeth Pierre
5 Cathy Grogan Thomas O'Neill, III	13 Adam Caldwell	22 Rebecca Daniels	30 Dorothy Adkins David Caldwell Tammy Waters
6 Lauren Slayton	15 Lester Payne	23 Joanna Caldwell Nancy Ingram	
8 Glen Milam Matkins Milligan	16 Taylor Daniels Wilhelm Briggs Bauman	24 Suzanne Thompson	



*Our deepest sympathy*

*To the family of William James (Jim) Cheyney II,*  
*who died on August 27*

*To the family of Robert Wooding,*  
*who died on September 4*



*Our thoughts and prayers  
are with you.*

Philip Blackmon, Pat Giles,  
Dorothy Stephens, Bill Hardy,  
The Rev. Joyce Johnson, Peggy Handy, Mary  
Ellen Dean, Betty Yates, Donald Turner



**William James Cheyney II** passed away peacefully on August 27, 2022. He was born on October 19, 1936, in Trenton, NJ, to Ruth Hall, of Milton, NC, and William James Cheyney, of Philadelphia, PA. He attended Washington, DC, public schools before

attending Westtown, a Quaker boarding school in West Chester, PA. He is an alumnus of the University of North Carolina. After college, he served in the Office of Naval Intelligence on the USS Leyte Aircraft Carrier.

He wed Helen Browder, of Danville, on February 14, 1959. Following his service in the Navy, he worked in an accounting firm, kickstarting a successful career in business and finance.

Before retiring to Danville in 1994, he and his wife raised their four sons in Virginia Beach, Waynesboro, and Martinsville, VA, and Wilmington, NC. He was a member of Mount Vernon Church, the Lions Club, Elks Club, UNC Rams Club, and the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History, and most recently he served on the Board of Directors of the Thomas Day House. He was known for his wit, intelligence, kindness, and generous spirit.

He is preceded in death by his son William James Cheyney III, and survived by his wife, Helen; sons David, Bryan, and Stephen (and wife Bridgett); and grandchildren Alex, Caleb, and Maggie Cheyney.

There will be a graveside service at Green Hill Cemetery at a later date.



**Robert Benton Wooding, Jr.**, 71, passed away peacefully on September 4. He is predeceased by his parents, Robert and Mary Wooding of Danville, and two brothers, Sydney Wooding and William Wooding. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Wooding, two step-sons, Daniel Sanders and Charles Sanders, and his sister, Nan Wooding Turner.

Robert was reared in Danville and attended George Washington High School. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. Degree in Psychology. He later earned a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from V.C.U. Robert spent his career working with "at risk" adolescents. He worked in the Department of Corrections, psychiatric clinics, residential treatment, and later in the public school setting as a special education teacher. This was not always easy work, and Robert learned to appreciate every success no matter how small. He earned the respect of his colleagues and was appreciated by administrators in both Danville and Pittsylvania County Schools.

In April, 1988, Robert went for a job interview that would change his life forever. One of the interviewing committee's members was the future Margaret Wooding. She had a bright smile, very pleasing and accepting. They had so much in common: both played the piano, were involved in education, had similar political views; the list goes on. They were married for nearly thirty glorious and wonderful years. Margaret was the love of his life.

Robert's faith journey took him to the door of Mount Vernon Church. As he entered, he was greeted with a warm welcome, a friendly smile, and a genuine openness to all who enter. Robert, along with nearly all in the congregation, worked on projects aimed at making the world and our town a better place.

A memorial service will be held at Mount Vernon UMC on Saturday, September 17, at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, 107 W. Main St., Danville, VA 24541.