Get Away From It All - Join Our Spring Retreat!

Last April, a group of 17 women met together in the beautiful setting of Eagle Eyrie for learning, networking and fellowship – the VaPAUMCS Spring Retreat. All agreed that it was an event that was informative, meaningful, and worth doing again. They also agreed that they should each bring a friend to the next retreat.

Well, now’s your chance to be part of just such a wonderful time! VaPAUMCS presents Buena “Beanie” Rankin, retired Assistant Director of Records and Statistics, who will bring us a wealth of information on all those subjects so near and dear to our hearts – apportionments, membership records, church software, record retention and effective cyber communications. Beanie has presented at chapter events across the country and at the National PAUMCS Annual Conference. She is knowledgeable, informative and entertaining.

Beanie is a life-long United Methodist and has been in church work since 1982. She has served in local churches as church secretary, as administrative assistant, and as financial secretary. She was also a regional training representative for Cokesbury on UMIS, the Shepherd’s Staff, and Shelby software systems. In this capacity, she traveled throughout the country training church staff on the use of the church management software programs and troubleshooting accounting systems. She is a member of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) and has been certified since 1990. As a member, she served the organization as secretary, as treasurer, and was on the Professional Training and Standards Committee.

Conveniently accessible from Rt. 64, the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center is a peaceful setting perfect for the networking and fellowship that always occur at the Spring Retreat. Each of Oakwood Lodge’s rooms has a private bath, and towels and linens are provided. Breakfast and lunch on Monday will be provided at the spacious Magnolia Center, where many windows give a grand view of the retreat center’s natural beauty.

For more information on this event, go to www.vaumc.org/PAUMCS. Online registration with a credit card is available.

The deadline to register is April 20, and those who register by April 1 will be entered in a drawing for a $300 scholarship to attend the 2016 National PAUMCS Annual Conference. Don’t miss out on this wonderful opportunity – register today!

Don’t Be a Fool... Early Registration has its Rewards!

Are you planning to attend our Spring Event in Williamsburg, May 3-4? If so, be sure to have your paid registration in by April Fools’ Day. One $300 scholarship, to be used toward costs associated with attending the 2016 PAUMCS National Conference in Kansas City, MO, will be awarded to one attendee of the VA PAUMCS Spring 2015 Event whose paid registration for this event is received by that deadline.

For more information call Susan Petrey in the Richmond District Office at (800) 768-6040, ext. 124, or (804) 521-1124, or email RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org.

Prayer Chain and Care Ministry

The Virginia Chapter has a PAUMCS Prayer Chain and solicits your prayers for those who submit a request. Many pray daily for the requests, send cards and notes via regular or email to those listed or just hold the requests in their hearts. Anyone interested in becoming part of this ministry is encouraged to email Dale Childrey at dchildrey@comcast.net.

Your Care Ministry team of VA PAUMCS enjoys being in ministry with you and celebrating your special joys, giving encouragement when needed and a word of sympathy at a time of sorrow. Our Care Team members are Donna Desper and Mary Gail Hoffman. StauntonDistrict@vaumc.org
Georgia on My Mind!

The PAUMCS National Conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 16-19, 2015. If you’ve ever considered attending a national event but the airfare got in the way, this is your year – our national event is within driving distance!

This year’s event, “Georgia on My Mind,” features speakers on a wide variety of topics, including Dr. Quincy Brown, who will speak on servant-leadership. Cathy Lee Phillips will help us see God at work every moment. Rev. Phil Schroeder will show us that understanding ourselves helps us know how we can get along with all sorts of people. And Rev. Jasmine Smothers will explain how Vital Congregations is more than just numbers. From speakers to networking with others in similar positions, mission projects to excursions through historic Atlanta, you won’t want to miss this conference!

Share the National Conference registration brochure found at www.vaumc.org/paumcs with your staff-parish committee so they can see how this continuing education opportunity will benefit your church. National PAUMCS offers scholarships to help with the registration cost. Contact Dianne Beam, National Professional Training and Standards Chair, at dbeam@hgumc.org or (704) 714-2334 for more information.

Register now and make plans to attend. A number of VA PAUMCS folks are already making plans to carpool. Email VA PAUMCS president BevMyers@vaumc.org to let her know you are coming.

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

Get Certified!

The 2015 Certification Institute for the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) is taking registrations for the July 19 -24, 2015 session at the GCFA Servant Ministry Center in Nashville, Tennessee. The registration fee of $325 includes course materials, some of the meals, and access to skilled trainers.

Certification class size is limited, so be sure to register now to reserve your space. Click here for the registration form. Registration deposits are due May 8.

Benefits of National PAUMCS Membership

- Opportunity to earn certification by the General Council on Finance and Administration as a Professional United Methodist Church Secretary
- Continuing education to enhance your professional leadership, focusing on the total church office
- Being part of a community in which to share knowledge and to learn from others
- Network / communication options: The Vital Link, a quarterly newsletter; the Prayer Net, a prayer network; Linking Hands, an email support group
- Spiritual growth opportunities and global connections

I have been asked to share my certification experience. I loved meeting all the other church secretaries and administrators. It turned out that we had many experiences in common, both the good and the bad. It was reassuring to see that others had felt as I have at different times in my career.

All of the information is very helpful. There is quite a lot that one may not know unless one attends the classes and is informed. I have found it to be useful as issues have come up and I had the knowledge gained from the classes.

Warm lifelong friendships have been formed with several of the ladies, even though we only see each other at the PAUMCS events.

The certification personally helped me grow more confident as the church secretary and administrator. I would say I have been given more respect from members of the church as well. More knowledge and skills are now available to the church than before my certification.

There is much to be gained by attending certification classes and it is all good. Every single aspect is well planned and thought out. It is only a blessing.

Janine Desrochers
Administrative Assistant
Louisa United Methodist Church
What Does PAUMCS Mean to Me?

As many of you know, the longtime former secretary for the Ashland District, Lyn Robeson, passed away unexpectedly a few months before the Fredericksburg District started in July 2011. It was a heartbreaking time for everyone on our district. It was also a terrifying time. We had a new district, a new office, a new DS and Lyn R. wasn’t there with her gentle smile to guide us. She had been the backbone of the district, the one who knew all the answers and suddenly she was gone. We had to figure it out with no net.

PAUMCS became that net for me. I was embraced by the other secretaries from churches and districts offering help and guidance. I don’t think I would have made it through the first year without the community and connections I’d made at PAUMCS. So to me, PAUMCS means community and support.

Through PAUMCS, I have made connections and I know that whereas I may be alone physically, I am not alone. I am not alone in talking aloud to my computer when Table 2 is confusing. I’m not alone when EVC makes me log in for the 15th time in a day. I’m not alone when both lines on the phone are ringing off the hook. I’m not alone when there are 50 emails waiting for me when I sign in first thing in the morning. And I’m not alone when I have to explain to a caller that I have to refer her elsewhere for help with her power bill. There are many other church secretaries who are dealing with the same daily issues, and that gives me a sense of camaraderie.

I can pick up the phone and call another church or district secretary and ask questions, share ideas and just have a laugh. I feel that even though my office may be separate from others, there is a larger group that I can turn to for support and assistance. The annual meetings give me a chance to connect names with faces as well as receive invaluable information. I come away feeling blessed to be a part of such a group.

Lynn Manley, Fredericksburg District Secretary

If You Weren’t There, Here’s What You Missed

Fall Retreat – October 29, 2014

The Fall PAUMCS Retreat was on many of the ways to communicate with your congregations and community. Bishop Cho opened our day by welcoming us and in prayer.

In the morning session we learned about blogging, web pages and mass marketing. Lunch is always a delight when we get to mingle with other PAUMCS members. It’s really great to talk about your job to people who understand. The food isn’t bad either! The afternoon session was on Facebook, Internet ethics and Twitter/Instagram. All the speakers were very informative and I came away with pages of notes in addition to the handouts.

The ride to and from the Conference Center is always fun too. Riding with two other ladies can make 2½ hours go by really fast.

I got involved with PAUMCS when our district secretary at the time worked to get the secretaries together to meet. From there we learned there was a conference level and a national level. I feel whenever you are given an opportunity to learn how you can do your job better you should take it.

There are two events each year: the Spring Overnight Retreat and the Fall One-Day Retreat. This year the Spring Retreat is in Williamsburg. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter and sign up today. I look forward to seeing you there!

Gayle L. Saunders
Administrative Assistant
Mountain View United Methodist Church