

First-year counselor Jackson Hatcher of Christiansburg tackles high ropes with concentration and focus.

# 2022 IMPACT REPORT



**289 Campers participated in our summer camp program**

- our highest number in 11 years!

Serving as the Outdoor Ministry of the Valley Ridge District of the United Methodist Church since 1957



We are grateful for the continued support of our local churches and community.



# FROM OUR OFFICE

## ALTA MONS STAFF

- Ronda Wimmer  
*Executive Director*
- Meredith Petty  
*Program Director*
- Billy Duncan  
*Maintenance Coordinator*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James E. Pearman  
*Board Chair & President*
- Chuck Neely  
*Vice President & Treasurer*
- Jennie Weeks  
*Secretary*
- Brenda Brooks
- Hannah Curtis
- Todd Fitch
- Doug Forrester  
*District Superintendent*
- Courtney Grubb
- Bill Hughes
- LeRoy Worley

## 2022 WAS A YEAR FULL OF BEAUTIFUL BLESSINGS AND GENEROUS GIVING

In the early months of the year, we were able to secure funding for some much needed facility repairs and upgrades– a new roof for the maintenance shop and new laminate flooring in Carter Cottage. These improvements help ensure comfortable and useful spaces for our staff and guests. In May, we prioritized making improvements to our high ropes course, craft hut, and cabins as we prepared for our most important ministry– summer camp.

The summer of 2022 marked our “return to the Dining Hall” as pandemic restrictions continued to lift and allowed us to gather in this beloved indoor space for meals and singing. We served 289 campers in 2022– again our highest number in over 10 years. We are so grateful to everyone who worked tirelessly to make sure our campers had the best experience possible– our volunteer chaplains and nurses, kitchen staff, summer leadership team, and our camp counselors. Our staff team is the essential element to ensuring a quality delivery of our mission to build relationships with each other, with Creation, and with God.

As fall arrived, we continued to see an increase in usage from families, churches, and other groups. Our campground served RV and tent campers from April through October and provided over 2,000 user days’ worth of rest, renewal, and recreation for our guests. We ended the year by hosting our annual Winter Camp the weekend before Christmas. Our all-volunteer staff led 84 campers in three days and two nights of activities focused on sharing God’s light and love.

We are grateful for the financial support we received from many generous donors, grants, and the Valley Ridge District of the UMC. As we look back on 2022, we are incredibly thankful for the opportunity to share God’s love through so many different aspects of Alta Mons’ ministry.



*Ronda Wimmer*  
Executive Director



*Meredith Petty*  
Program Director

TOP TO BOTTOM: Winter Camp volunteers stand for silly songs after dinner; camp friends pose for a picture; campers raise cups of hot chocolate in a toast; a child fishes at the pond.



Alta Mons began as the outdoor ministry of the Valley Ridge District of the United Methodist Church. For over 60 years, our summer and winter camp programs have given children and youth the opportunity to form relationships with each other, with nature, and with God. These programs are the core of who we are. However, summer camp isn't all that we do. We are open year round to provide high-quality experiences to all age groups through our campground, hiking trails, and facility rentals. Alta Mons has something for everyone, and we hope you'll visit us soon.



## Faith Formation

Our campers are encouraged to wonder out loud, ask questions, and think critically as they grow and deepen their faith. Worship is a part of daily life at camp just as much as playing, walking, and swimming.



## Christian Community

Small Group Christian Camping provides the framework for groups of 6-12 campers and two counselors to live out what the Bible teaches us about community. From chores to meals to worship, this group spends their time learning and loving together.



## Immersion in Nature

We want our campers to know how amazing this Earth is. We explore, play, and love on these 850 acres known as Alta Mons. We believe that the Earth is one of God's most precious gifts, and we strive to teach everyone how to best care for Creation.

## QUICK SUMMER CAMP DATA



112 Campers from Valley Ridge District Churches



69 Camperships Granted



289 Summer Campers over 4 Weeks



17% Increase in Campers, Building on Successes from 2021



22 Staff & 9 Counselors in Training Gave their Summers in Service to Each Other & their Campers

# PROGRAM REPORT

## Sharing in Community

Joyous sounds of singing and laughter filled the Dining Hall in 2022 as campers and staff were finally able to share meals and gather together again in this beloved space. We made the best of outdoor dining in 2021, but everyone was more than ready to return to our wooden tables, Christmas lights, and that classic “camp” feeling that the Dining Hall brings. Aptly chosen, our spiritual theme focused on all the things that we “share” in community— meals, stories, experiences, and God’s love. From worship to low ropes to creek hiking to the slip and slide, our campers and staff lived out what it truly means to share life in community. Our new high ropes

element, the Tarzan Traverse, provided campers with a new challenge and the return of our off-site trips program sent campers canoeing, caving, and rock climbing around the New River Valley. Resetting our camp structure post-pandemic also provided opportunities to improve and add new camp routines to make the Alta Mons experience even better. We limited our camper group size to 12 campers per unit to give each child more staff attention, and we gave everyone more space by eating on both sides of the Dining Hall. These two simple changes made a world of difference in our summer and the overall quality of our program.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Worship Coordinator Daniel Moore leads music time for a group of campers; Kitchen staff take a break from their hard work; Pastor Taylor Mertins of Raleigh Court UMC and his son Elijah who attended camp.



**CHAPLAINS: ALAN COMBS, TAYLOR MERTINS, AMANDA MILLER GARBER, AND MAX BLALOCK LED OVER 50 WORSHIP SERVICES.**

A camper takes a chance and scoots off the zipline platform at the tree course.

## SUMMER CAMPERS TOOK 118 ZIPS DOWN THE ZIPLINE.



### In 2022, Alta Mons got a TikTok!

A summer project of the Media Coordinator, our TikTok features short and silly videos about camp. Follow us @campaltamons to see funny reels and highlights from the summer and the rest of the year.



Exploring Purgatory Creek, a camper finds macroinvertebrates, evidence of a healthy stream.



### MAKING FRIENDS AT CAMP

97% of summer camp survey respondents said they “agree” or “strongly agree” that “because of camp my child has made new friends”

## After years of combining it with other roles, the Nature Coordinator job became its own paid position in 2022.

Adding Nature Coordinator as a standalone position allowed us to give our campers high quality outdoor and environmental education lessons to help them protect the planet and see God’s love in Creation.

“I learned a lot about myself and how to share my passion for the environment with others. I think it is really neat that I was able to share how important outdoor education is, even in a small capacity.”

-Jo Perkins, Summer Staff and Former Camper



# SPREADING

# LIGHT & LOVE

84 Campers Attended Winter Camp

### Special Thanks to Local Churches

In order to maintain capacity and decrease the number of campers in each group, we added another unit to Winter Camp 2022. We are grateful to Crockett Springs UMC for providing the additional lodging needed to help our campers have the best experience possible.

Special thanks to Mount Pleasant UMC and Blacksburg UMC for providing us with Sunday Staff Lunches! Together, these churches provided over 100 lunches to feed our staff between summer and winter camp.

### Discovering God’s light and love in nature, each other, and in the birth of Jesus

For three days and two nights our campers explored Alta Mons in the winter and enjoyed some of the special “only at Winter Camp” moments that come just once a year: seeing the Dining Hall glowing with Christmas lights, decorating cookies and “backcountry” Christmas trees, and enjoying hot chocolate by the cozy Dining Hall fireplace, to name just a few. Our spiritual theme focused on the idea that the most powerful way we can show God’s light to others is by loving them, just as Christ loves us. This special weekend away is a staple of our community and ministry and would not be possible without our dedicated staff who volunteered so much of their time to prepare, execute, and clean up Winter Camp.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Unit 4 takes their unit photo in Cedar View; Campers and counselors play around while waiting for announcements, Campers play cards during rest time, Nurse Taylor Peterson at the Nurse’s Station, A camper draws on the chalkboard.

 33 volunteers gave their time to make this experience possible.

# RETHINKING BEDTIME

## CAMPERS END THE DAY WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONNECTION

Bedtime can be a difficult time of day for some campers. To mitigate this, we added more opportunities for connection and comfort to our bedtime routine. Christmas lights, story books, battery powered candles, and individual check-ins are just some of the resources we provided our staff with to make sure that campers end the day feeling seen and heard by their counselors. Our bedtime routine facilitated a slow step-down in the energy of the day and created a predictable nightly rhythm for everyone.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Campers share their journal entries in their room at winter camp; Three campers talk before getting ready for bed in the Burrows Retreat Center; A parent and camper share a hug at check-in; A camper cabin during cabin inspection at summer camp.



“My child was a first-time camper as a teen, which isn’t always easy. Staff and kids made her feel at home right away. Thank you for all the work you do to provide great programs!”

### Camper Parent

From 2022 Winter Camp Survey

“My boys had an AWESOME time! They can’t wait to come back again next year. They feel loved and safe and respected while at camp, and this makes me so happy! Camp staff was SUPER friendly and efficient at camp check-in, which helped ease any nerves I noticed that my kids had.”

### Camper Parent

From 2022 Summer Camp Survey



# FINANCIAL REPORT



## Camper families-turned-donors

In 2021 we began a new camp pricing model known as tiered pricing.

Tiered pricing allows more choice in selecting the price they pay to send their child to camp.

Families have the option to choose to pay the “standard rate” or the “supporters rate” for camp. The supporters rate is an increase of \$50 for each camp fee. In 2021 we received \$1554 from families wanting to give a little extra to support Alta Mons.

**We experienced continued support of this initiative in 2022 with families giving \$2760.**

### A WORD FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

The Board of Directors and staff were excited to welcome an increasing number of guests to Alta Mons in 2022.

Our summer camp experienced the highest number of campers for many years. Alta Mons staff worked hard to continue addressing the financial challenges resulting from the pandemic. The Valley Ridge District’s churches continued their financial support, representing about 27 percent of Alta Mons’ annual income. Generous support by numerous donors was critical and comprised an additional 38 percent of the income. The increased use of our facilities

for camping and retreats provided the remaining 35 percent of income. All these sources are critical to Alta Mons fulfilling its mission. We are blessed to have a beautiful 850 acres for our guests to enjoy and be enveloped by the grace of Jesus Christ. The Board is thankful for the dedicated staff and volunteers that make Alta Mons such a blessing.



JIM PEARMAN  
BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

## FINANCIALS FOR ALTA MONS, INC

Jan 1, 2022 - Dec 31, 2022

Generated Income	\$184,967
Other Income	\$14,096
Donations	\$331,338
District Apportionment	\$140,255
Other Giving	\$191,083
Total Income	\$530,401
Total Expense	\$490,406
Debt Service	\$29,154

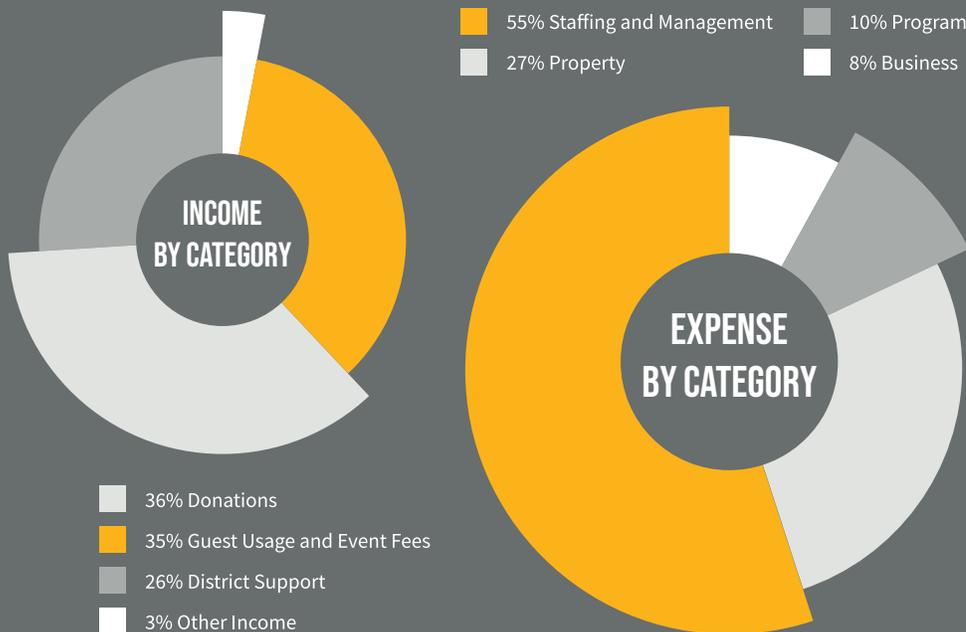
**BUSINESS IS BACK!  
CONTRACTED GROUPS UP  
51% FROM 2021.**

LEFT: A clothespin hangs on the drying line outside a camper cabin. BELOW: Campers and staff mimic birds during a winter camp nature lesson.

## We're incredibly blessed to have Alta Mons as a place apart to escape the day-to-day and experience God's beauty.

Reflecting back on this year, it was one of new growth for our Alta Mons team. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the churches of the Valley Ridge District, we were able to bring on critical team members to support our mission. We also continue to look for additional support for ongoing needs onsite. We accom-

plished a lot this year – whether it was through infrastructure improvements, retreat guest events, or coordinating volunteer efforts. We are excited about the year ahead, and we are grateful for the staff, volunteers, and donors who help make our outdoor ministry a success.



## FUNDRAISING FIGURES IN 2022

- 1 Hikers to Stiles Falls donated \$1041 at our hiker sign-in kiosk. This is a 13% increase from 2021.
- 2 Facebook campaigns and birthday fundraisers generated \$2365 in donations.
- 3 Through use of our Amazon Smile profile, shoppers gifted \$57 to Alta Mons.
- 4 We were blessed by 63 first-time donors who chose to support our ministry in 2022.





# OPERATIONS REPORT

An RV camper fires up the grill at his campsite in the Wetlands Campground.

**GUEST DAYS 2020-2022**

	2020	2021	2022
Retreat	1029	2543	6141
Pool	241	95	180
Ropes	22	211	160
Camping	1260	2681	2209
Hiking*	4517	4570	3709
Pastoral Retreat	182	62	24

\*This number is based on hikers who sign in. The actual number of hikers is likely much higher.

## 2022 WAS A YEAR WHERE MANY PEOPLE RETURNED

While being extremely understaffed, we were able to ensure Alta Mons was a place where people could experience God’s beauty. With Covid restrictions being lifted, our usage increased.

We are grateful for the many volunteer hours put in on various projects like our Paul Bunyan day where most of the wood we need during our camping season is split, as well as cleaning cabins and clearing brush to get ready for our busy camp season. We can’t forget the many hours it takes to mow all the grass to keep our grounds looking good.



Guests roast marshmallows over a campfire.

**“STAFF MEMBERS ARE INCREDIBLY PATIENT, AMAZING, EASY GOING, FUN AND EXTREMELY HELPFUL! MAKING A RESERVATION WAS STRAIGHT FORWARD AND THE PRICING VERY AFFORDABLE. WE COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER PLACE TO HAVE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS JOIN US ON OUR WEDDING DAY. EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT! “**

# OUR DONORS

## \$10,000 AND ABOVE

A Generous Friend of  
Alta Mons  
Dr. George & Mildred Smith  
Jim & Brenda Pearman  
Lorene S. Pearman  
W. Jackson Burrows

## \$1,000 TO \$4,999

A Generous Friend of  
Alta Mons  
Dr. Gavin Aaron  
Richard and Deneise Altizer  
Eastmont Community  
Foundatoin  
Robert Giesy Estate  
Ruth P. Keeling  
James Leake  
Spencer & Dayle Winfrey

## \$1 to \$999

A Generous Friend of  
Alta Mons  
Adwoa-Ankomah-Asiedu  
Amy Harrison  
Amy Shank  
Angela Petty  
Angela Sengson  
Arthur & Shirley Grant  
Bill and Nancy Hughes  
Blacksburg UMC - UMW  
Bob & Karen Trear  
Bonnie Mattews  
Bonnie Norris  
Boyce & Caroline Cook  
Brad & Kim Dulaney  
Brenda & Ronnie Brooks  
Calvary Christiansburg UMC  
Carl & Lisa Turney  
Catie Davis  
Charles Neely  
Cheryl Thomas  
Christine Haimann  
Clarence & Betty Tarpley

David & Ellen Ryan  
David & Susan Fritz  
David Perry  
Dawyn & Steve Schutz  
Deborah A Lawrence  
Dennis & Nancy Dickison  
Devin LaPuasa  
Emory Tarpley  
Fidelity Charitable  
Fred & Nellie Jo St Clair  
George and Melinda  
Smith  
Giving's Foundation  
Glen Lyle  
Greene Memorial UMC  
Hannah Curtis  
Harold & Verena Bell  
Havens Chapel UMC  
Herbert C Williams Jr.  
Jason Stephens  
Jeffrey & Janet Crook  
Jeffrey Wilson  
Jennie Weeks  
Jim McGehee  
John Gonsalves  
John Mathews  
Julian Barnes  
Julian Price  
Julie M Atkins  
Karen Phillips  
Karen Tate  
Karen Williams  
Katherine McClure  
Katheryn E Surface  
Burks  
Keith Davis  
Kinsolving Foundation  
Lafayette UMC  
Leroy Worley  
Lois Jenkins  
Maile Armstrong  
Martha S Altizer  
Meghan O'Brien  
Meredith & Taylor Petty  
Michelle Dyreng

Mike & Lois Sandborn  
NCG  
Northview UMC  
Order of The Eastern Star  
Patricia Merrill  
Rachael Hodges  
Rachel Smith  
Rebecca MacKenzie  
Richard Dudley  
Robert & Betsy Stutes  
Robert Linkous  
Rockingham Court UMC  
Ronald & Sheila Overstreet  
Ronda Wimmer  
Ross Mecham  
Sara Thum  
Scott Wade  
Sherry Basham  
Southview UMC  
St Paul's UMC  
Stanford Byrd  
Stephanie Kimec- Parker  
Stephen Temple  
Steve Haimann  
Susan & Robert Wagner  
Terry & Susie Ross  
Terry Owen  
The Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Thrasher Memorial UMC  
Toby & Nici Bush  
Todd Fitch  
Tracy Rienschy  
Wesleyan Fellowship Class  
Woodlawn UMC

**A SINCERE THANKS TO THE  
COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS WHO  
MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE.**

RIGHT: A fisherman casts a line in the  
South Fork of the Roanoke River





# A WELCOMING PLACE APART; NURTURING AND TRANSFORMING LIVES

Pictured here: the Dining Hall on a fall weekend ready to welcome a retreat group.

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### Connect with us Online

For a closer look go to  
[www.altamons.org](http://www.altamons.org)



### Follow us on Social Media

Find us on Facebook  
and Instagram.



### Come for a Visit

Our grounds are open  
for public use most  
days of the year.