

The Combs Family poses for their photo as they hike to Stiles Falls while on a pastoral retreat.

2021 IMPACT REPORT



We are grateful for the abundant gifts from our supporters and community.



248 Campers Impacted

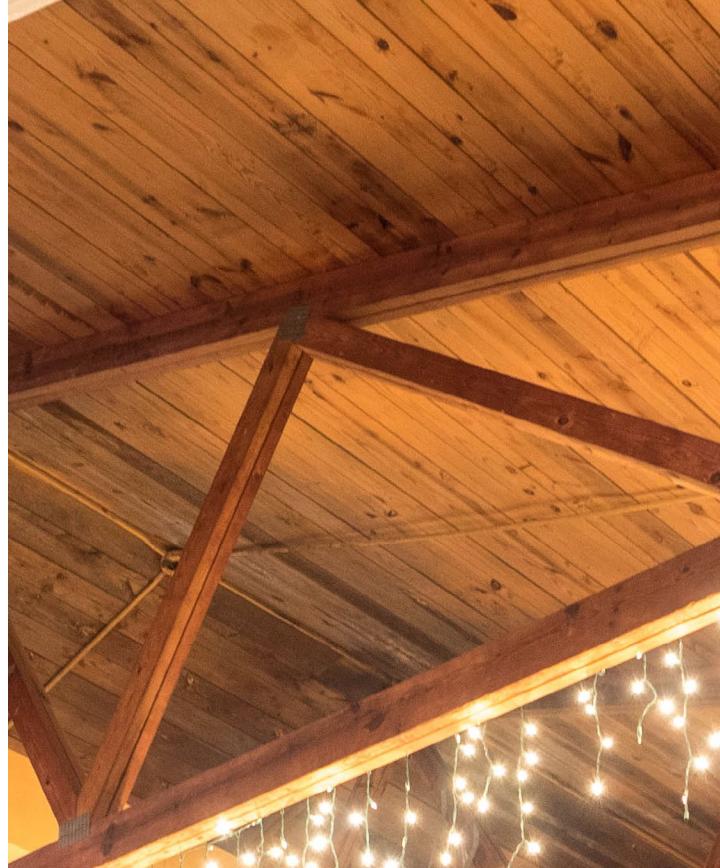
by our summer camp ministry-- our highest number in 10 years!

Serving the Roanoke & New River Valleys in
Outdoor Ministry since 1957



ABOUT OUR MINISTRY

Alta Mons began as the outdoor ministry of the Roanoke 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.



01 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.



02 Christian Community



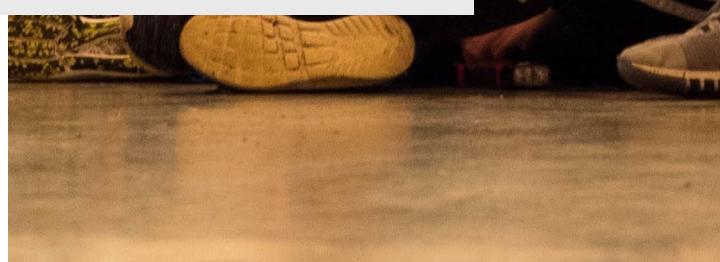
Small Group Christian Camping provides the framework for groups of 7-14 campers and two counselors to live out what the Bible teaches us about community. From chores to meals to worship, this group spends their time learning and loving together.



03 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.



From top to bottom: campers sing at Morning Watch, campers laugh as they pose for a photo, a camper swims in the Roanoke River, elementary campers gather for worship in the Dining Hall.



A view of the Back 400 on a sweet, summer morning in July.

FROM OUR OFFICE

2021 WAS A YEAR FULL OF MANY BLESSINGS AT ALTA MONS.

In February, we received our second Paycheck Protection Program loan to help fill the void created by pandemic-related cancellations. This money allowed us to continue to retain all of our staff and operate as close to “normal” as possible.

In the spring, several volunteer groups and individuals from local churches and the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech helped us mulch, paint, repair, and improve our facilities. A generous donor also supplied the money for our much-needed pool pump upgrade and several roofing needs. We are grateful for the abundant gifts from our supporters and community.

This summer we held in-person summer camp for the first time since 2019. Even though COVID-19 modifications changed some of our favorite camp moments, our core mission remained the same: to build relationships with each other, with Creation, and with God. We served 248 campers in 2021—our highest number in 10 years. We are incredibly thankful to everyone who was a part of making this summer happen—our kitchen staff, camp counselors, volunteers, and leadership team all gave above

and beyond in their service.

As fall arrived, we hosted the last of our campground guests and started to prepare for Winter Camp. Our campground generated more income in 2021 compared to the past 8 years, indicating our world’s continued interest in rest, renewal, and reconnection in nature. The weekend before Christmas our Winter Camp served 84 campers and our all-volunteer staff made the beauty, love, and magic of Christmas come alive.

We are grateful for the financial support we received from many generous donors, grants, and the Roanoke District of the UMC. Reflecting on 2021, we are so thankful that we were able to offer in-person camps, serve more guests than 2020, and continue to be a place for all people to experience the love of God.

Sincerely,

Ronda Wimmer
Executive Director

Meredith Petty
Program Director

ALTA MONS STAFF

Ronda Wimmer
Executive Director
Meredith Petty
Program Director
Becca Imbur
Guest Services Coordinator
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

PROGRAM REPORT

OUR “ALLELUIA” MOMENTS

Campers follow their counselor across Purgatory Creek and on to the next activity.

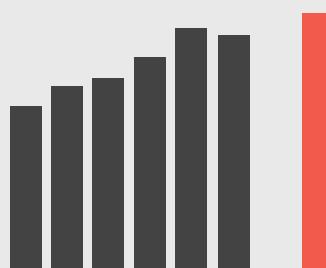


In 2021 we returned to in-person summer camp, and it was life-giving to both campers and staff.

After a year of Camp @ Home, everyone was ready to get back to in-person camp in 2021. Our planning began in late 2020 and continued all the way up until the first day of camp as regulations, guidelines, and best practices changed and evolved. Thanks to the hard work of our board members, volunteers, and staff we were able to offer a healthy and safe summer camp with no reported cases of COVID-19. Our spiritual theme was “Alleluia” which means “praise God.” Each evening’s worship was full of “Alleluia moments” that campers and staff shared from their day.

Our model of Small Group Christian Camping was raised to a new level of importance as it became one of our strongest mitigation tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our campers ate their meals outside under picnic shelters, sang silly songs, and mealtimes were just as joyous--even without being in the Dining Hall. It became clear that camp was an experience everyone had missed dearly, and it made our time together even more precious.

CONTINUED GROWTH AFTER A SUMMER WITHOUT CAMP



Summer Camp Attendance
2014-2021

47 campers served through our entry-level programs

Day Camp and Mini Camp serve as introductions to camp for younger campers.



CAMP BY THE NUMBERS

OUR LARGEST SUMMER IN 10 YEARS

During the summer of 2021 we served **248** campers.

We are thrilled to see this continued growth even after a year without in-person camping.

127 FIRST TIME CAMPERS IN 2021

71 Camperships Granted

This means that for 71 children, finances did not prevent them from experiencing the love of Jesus at camp.



105

CAMPERS FROM ROANOKE DISTRICT CHURCHES



PRAISING GOD ALL THE DAY LONG

Conference clergy Max Blalock, Jeff Wilson, Alan Combs, and Amanda Miller Garber each served as a chaplain for a week leading a combined total **50** worship services.

EATING TOGETHER OUTDOORS

Was something we already did at certain times during the week, but we took it to a new level in 2021 serving **5295** meals outside!

ALL SMILES AT THE SWING SHOT

Over the course of just 4 weeks, our campers racked up **106** swings on the swing shot. Haul team ready?



25 STAFF AND 6 VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS IN TRAINING GAVE THEIR SUMMERS IN SERVICE TO EACH OTHER AND THEIR CAMPERS.

SHARING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS



CAMPERS CONNECT WITH CREATION

Staff member Sarah Grace Frary points out birds while on a nature hike at Winter Camp.

ON DECEMBER 17TH, THESE 850 ACRES OF LAND BECAME FULLY ALIVE AS 84 CAMPERS AND 28 VOLUNTEER STAFF ARRIVED FOR THE START OF WINTER CAMP.

For 3 days and 2 nights we sang, played, ate, hiked, and worshiped as we learned about the true meaning of Christmas. From roasting s'mores to wagon rides and craft time, our campers were tasked with finding "The Joy of All Creation" in their weekend at Alta Mons. For many, the opportunity to simply gather together in-person was their biggest joy. For others, time

in nature, with friends, and with God created a special weekend away right before the holiday. We were able to give 24 camperships to children and youth at Winter Camp—ensuring that finances were not a barrier to their camp experience. At the end of our time together, everyone's heart was full of the true joy of Christmas—Jesus Christ.



LOOKING TO 2022

Registration is already open for Summer Camp 2022 at Alta Mons. While we don't know what lies ahead in terms of COVID, we are planning and preparing adaptations to continue to be able to offer summer camp. Our theme is "Share" and will focus on living in community and learning to open ourselves to the people around us. We are eager to see what God will do in the lives of our campers and staff this summer. We are planning to change out an element on our high ropes course, bring back our off-site trips, and return to eating in the Dining Hall. We have expanded our Mini Camp offerings and will continue to streamline our drive thru check-in process.

As we plan camp, we also recruit staff! It takes a team to make camp happen. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving at Alta Mons this summer, please reach out to our office.



Learning along the way.

The pandemic forced us to do things differently and offered opportunities for new perspectives. In the process, we found practices that worked better than before! One such change was limiting our Winter Camp capacity to **84 campers**. In doing this, we improved our housing options and camper experience.



TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR CAMPER FAMILIES

CAMP IS AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER. THESE PARENTS SHARE WHAT CAMP MEANS TO THEIR CHILDREN.



"SINCE DAY ONE, SHE'S BEEN HOOKED!"

She loves connecting with returning staff and campers--many of which have been there all five years. We recommend Alta Mons to all our friends with school-age children."

- Camper Parent



"MY KIDS ARE FOREVER CHANGED

By the care, teaching and outward expression of love by all the camp staff. The Alta Mons programs provide fundamental tools for youth in a means that encourages acceptance, compassion, and spiritual growth."

- Camper Parent



"CAMP ALTA MONS HAS BECOME THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR CHILD'S SUMMER."

It's a place for singing, laughing, exploring, and making new friends. I love that my child can experience some independence while knowing that she is safe and under the very best care at her home away from home."

- Camper Parent

From top to bottom: two sisters smile in their Burrows Retreat Center room at Winter Camp, campers work together to solve a low ropes challenge, staff member Billy Ferguson tells a Willie Jack story at Shelter 4.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

While we continued to face challenges in 2021, we were blessed to hold both in-person Summer and Winter Camps. We were also able to welcome guests to use other Alta Mons facilities.

The board and staff worked diligently to develop protocols to assure the safety of campers and visitors. While challenges with COVID-19 still kept the number of guests below previous years, it was still wonderful to witness visitors enjoying the Alta Mons' facilities.

Alta Mons faced significant financial challenges in 2021. The continued financial support of our District churches and generous support by numerous donors was a blessing.

Fortunately, Alta Mons qualified for round 2 of the Payroll Protection Program loans. The loan proceeds allowed Alta Mons to maintain employment of its full-time staff. We were also able to employ a full complement of interns for the 2021 summer camp program. As a result, Alta Mons qualified for the full forgiveness of the loan.



JIM PEARMAN
BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

Trends and Highlights in Giving in 2021

- Hikers donated \$905 through the donation box at our sign in kiosk.
- Campaigns on Facebook raised \$2510 through fundraisers for birthdays and Giving Tuesday.
- A dedicated supporter of Alta Mons gifted a new 4WD tractor with a finishing mower and bucket. This has been a huge help in keeping our grounds looking gorgeous.

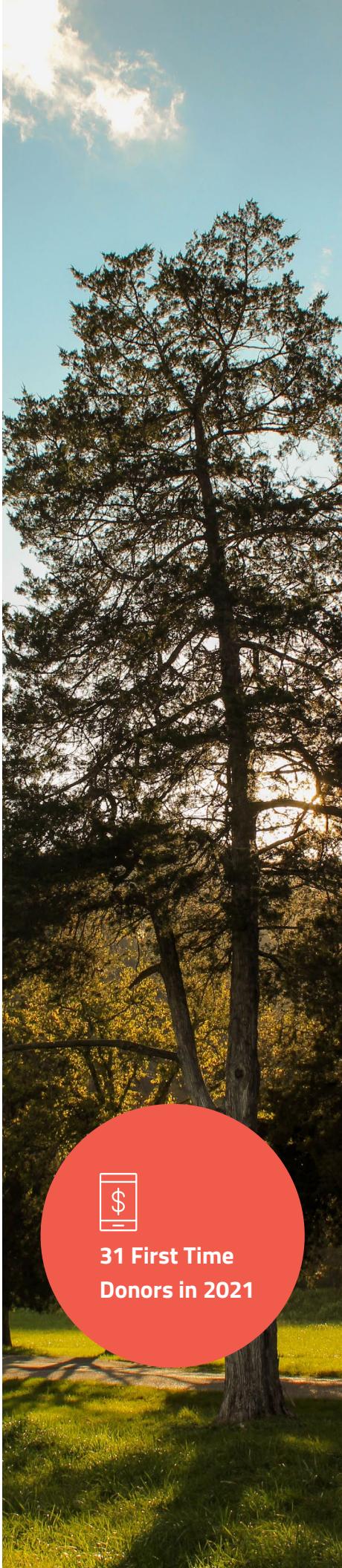


CAMPER FAMILIES ELECT TO GIVE MORE THROUGH NEW TIERED PRICING STRUCTURE.

New in 2021, we implemented a tiered pricing structure in which families had the option to choose to pay the “standard rate” or the “supporters rate” for camp. The families of 26 campers opted to pay the supporters rate, an increase of \$50 for each camp fee. Just by asking, we received an additional \$1554 from families wanting to give a little extra to support Alta Mons.

**31 First Time
Donors in 2021**

The sun sets behind the cedar trees lining the entrance to Alta Mons.



33%

**INCREASE IN GIFTS IN
2021, AN ADDITIONAL
\$86,542 IN SUPPORT**

TIGHTENED SPENDING

NEW INCOME SOURCES

DECREASED BUSINESS

Long-time staff member Cullen Cash wades into the South Fork of the Roanoke River with his fly rod.

In 2022, our efforts are focused on expanding campers at our in-person summer camp and increasing the number of guests visiting Alta Mons.

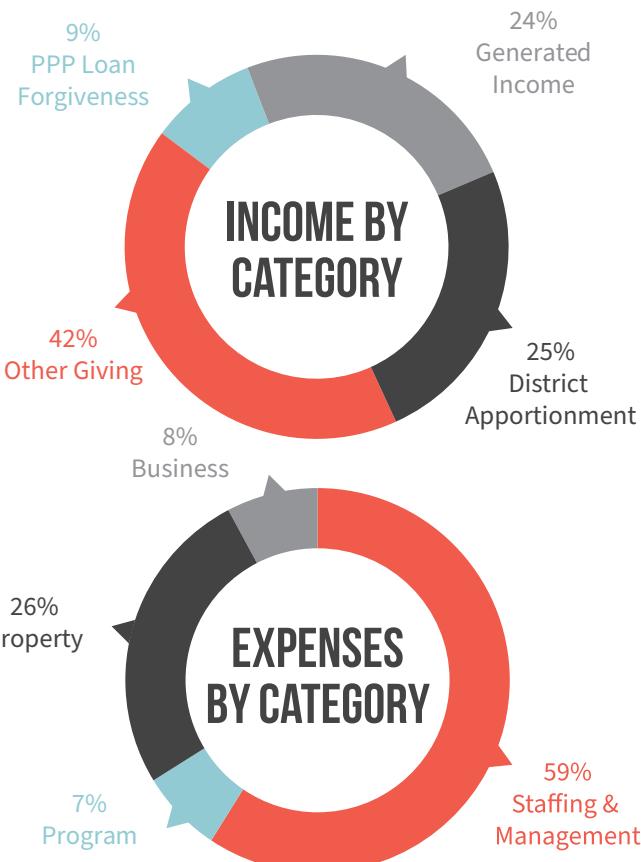
The board and staff will continue utilizing our protocols to safely host campers and guests. We will continue our diligence to react to the evolving efforts to combat the effects of the pandemic. The board and staff are committed to providing a safe environment when campers and guests visit our property.

We are hopeful that 2022 will bring increased usage of the Alta Mons facilities and that our revenue from this source will return to more normal levels. We trust in the continued faithful support of our District churches and the numerous donors who love Alta Mons. We know that God is in control. The board and staff are committed to sharing the beauty of His creation and the love of His son, Jesus Christ.

FINANCIALS FOR ALTA MONS, INC

Jan 1, 2021 - Dec 31, 2021

Generated Income	\$127,708
Donations	\$351,359
District Apportionment	\$130,946
Other Giving	\$220,413
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$47,540
Total Income	\$526,60
Total Expense	\$472,311



SUPPORTERS USE THEIR SHOPPING FOR GOOD

In 2021, our partnership with Amazon Smile generated \$60.62 in donations to Alta Mons.

OPERATIONS REPORT

PROVIDING A PLACE APART FROM THE WORLD

From left to right: a tidy camper on the Wetlands side of the campground over Labor Day weekend, a child swings in a hammock at his family's campsite.

Similar to 2020, this year was marked by continued uncertainty.

We're incredibly blessed to have a dedicated staff who ensured that Alta Mons remained a place apart to escape the day-to-day and experience God's beauty. Thanks to their work, we continued to serve retreat groups and guests while practicing COVID-19 safety precautions.

For all the plans that COVID-19 sidetracked, it accelerated others. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the churches of the Roanoke District, we were able to retain a talented team who worked on improvement projects throughout the year – projects aimed to improve the guest experience.

These projects and more, laid a strong foundation for Alta Mons guests and campers to continue to grow in the coming year. 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.

47% INCREASE IN RETREAT GUESTS FROM 2020, AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD PRE-PANDEMIC NUMBERS.



GUEST DAYS IN 2020 & 2021

	2020	2021
Retreat	1029	2543
Pool	241	95
Ropes	22	211
Camping	1260	2681
Hiking*	4517	4570
Pastoral Retreat	182	62

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



HIGHEST NUMBER OF CAMPING GUEST DAYS SINCE 2012

People have continued to find rest at our campground. In 2021 we experienced our largest number of camping guest days in recent years.

OUR DONORS

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

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

\$5,000 TO \$9,999

W. Jackson Burrows

\$1,000 TO \$4,999

A Generous Friend of
Alta Mons
A Generous Friend of
Alta Mons
Keith Davis
Eastmont Community
Foundation
Mountain Valley Charitable
Foundation
Carol Pruner Fund
James Leake
Ruth P. Keeling
Kelley O'Kain

\$1 to \$999

A Generous Friend of Alta
Mons
Dr Gavin M. Aaron
Martha S Altizer
Maile Armstrong
Meagan Arthur
Lisa Marie Assad
Julie M Atkins
Deirdre Aycock
Sherry Basham
Harold & Verena Bell
Warner & Beverly
Bonderman

Brenda & Ronnie Brooks
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Lois Burnette
Toby & Nici Bush
Fidelity Charitable
Calvary UMC
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Hannah Cline Curtis
Catie Davis
Dennis & Nancy Dickison
Richard Dudley
Thomas & Rebecca
Dunkenberger
Heather Fawkes
Giving's Foundation
Kinsolving Foundation
David & Susan Fritz
The Blackbaud Giving
Fund
Grand Home Furnishings
Fred & Margaret Gilmer
Network For Good
Arthur & Shirley Grant
Charles & Caroline Green
Christine Haimann
Brian & Sidney Handy
Amy Harrison
Rachael Hodges
Sarang Hong
Bill Hughes
George R Smith III
Devin LaPuasa
Deborah A Lawrence
Gil Lee
Glen Lyle

Rebecca MacKenzie

Marvin Mann
William Marmagas
John Mathews
Bonnie Matthews

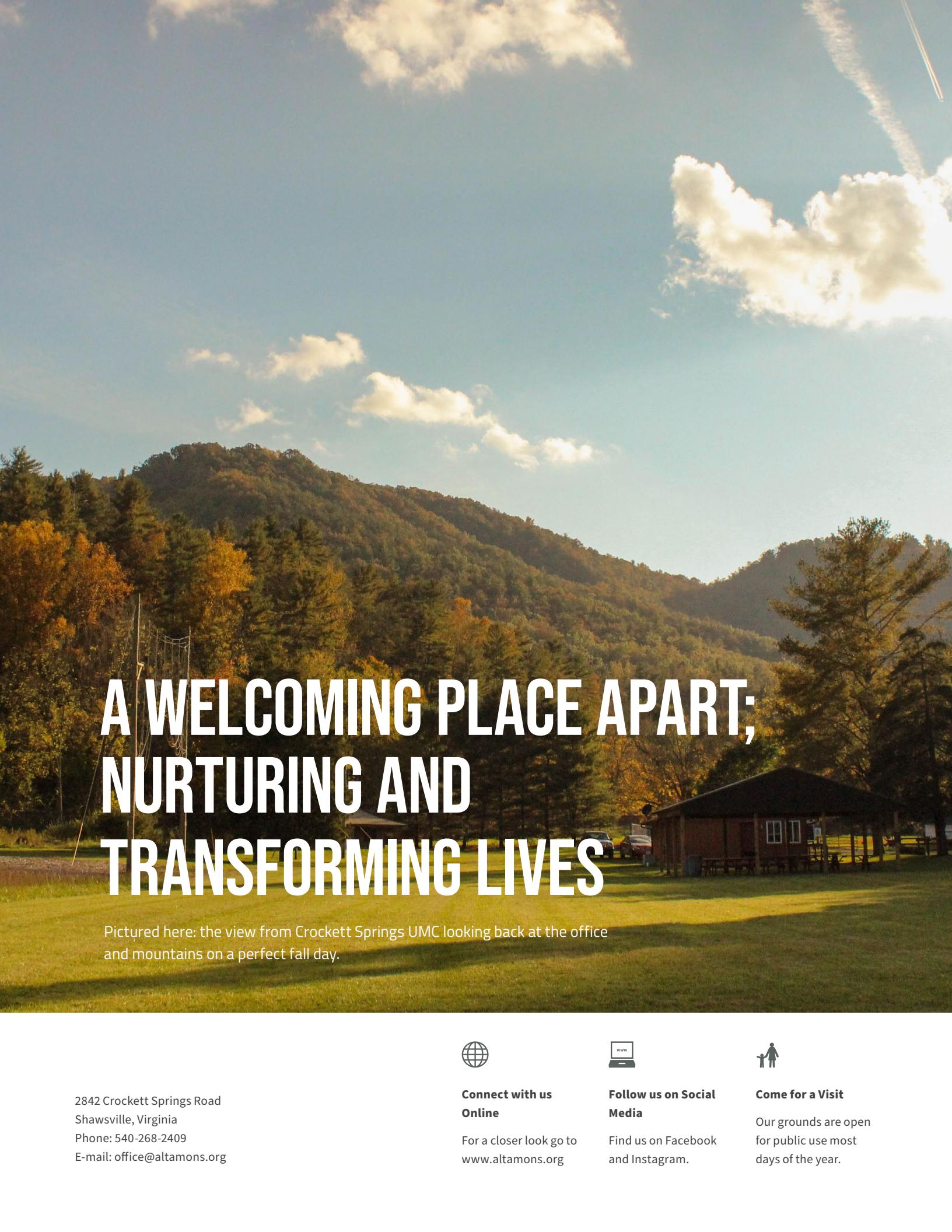
Pamela V Mayes
Katherine McClure
Jim McGehee
Gayle & Kenneth McGeorge
Ross Mecham
NCG

Charles Neely
Bonnie Norris
Meghan O'Brien
Ronald & Sheila Overstreet
Terry Owen
Gopal Pandey
Stephanie Kimec- Parker
C.W. Parris
Angela Petty
Meredith & Taylor Petty
Karen Phillips
Julian Price
Terry & Susie Ross
David & Ellen Ryan
Christiansburg Middle School
Dawyn & Steve Schutz
Angela Sengson
Amy Shank
Rachel Smith
John Snyder
Robert & Betsy Stutes
Karen Tate
Stephen Temple
Cheryl Thomas
Sara Thum
Bruce Tuttle
Greene Memorial UMC
Havens Chapel UMC
Northview UMC
Rockingham Court UMC
Southview UMC
St Paul's UMC
Woodlawn UMC
Blacksburg UMC - UMW

Susan & Robert Wagner
Madeline Walk
Vivian Webb
Jennie Weeks
Debora Bays Wilborn
Karen Williams
Herbert C Williams Jr.
Ronda Wimmer
Sarah Windes
LeRoy Worley



A SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DONORS WHO HAVE MADE THIS YEAR POSSIBLE. WE
WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO MINISTRY WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!



A WELCOMING PLACE APART; NURTURING AND TRANSFORMING LIVES

Pictured here: the view from Crockett Springs UMC looking back at the office and mountains on a perfect fall day.

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Shawsville, Virginia
Phone: 540-268-2409
E-mail: office@altamons.org



**Connect with us
Online**

For a closer look go to
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.