

Friends of Latvia *News!*

Volume 9 | Issue 1

May 2017

Friends of Latvia in Covenant Relationship since 1991

To advance to every resident of Latvia the joyful witness of Jesus Christ as the risen Savior...

Notes From the Chair

Greetings my friends! I hope you are all having a wonderful spring and had a joyous and glorious Easter!

I am still feeling the afterglow from our amazing week in Alabama at Camp Sumatanga! The FOL meeting and Women's Emmaus Walk were wonderful, spiritual and productive events. I felt the peacefulness, serenity, and beauty of the camp, and the camp layout, really helped us all get to know one another better and feel the Holy Spirit's presence. Having the Latvian pastors at our FOL meeting and The Walk was very special and meaningful to everyone who attended and a true blessing! Another tip of the cap to Wannell Scott, Kay Davis, Chris Greene and all support folks for all their hard work and leadership in making this week happen. It wouldn't have happened without you! A very special thank you to Lee Padgett, Executive Director of the Camp, for his warm hospitality, the wonderful food at the Camp, and making sure everything was just right!



The FOL meeting was a blessed and productive time. Our worship music was awesome (thanks Chris) and I was just blown away by the Latvian pastors reports; what they are doing in ministry and how they are leading their congregations and communities in doing God's work. Of course there are challenges, many of them significant ones as we heard. These challenges are similar to the ones the Methodist church faces in the U.S. and worldwide. I believe the solutions lie in us trusting in God's word and timing and continuing to be faithful servants. Thanks to all who started monthly recurring donations to our priority areas through The Advance during the meeting. This will help build momentum for the remainder of 2017 as we continue to tell the story of the rebirth of the Methodist church in Latvia in our congregations. In this issue is an article by Randy Tolleson with information about the Pastors Income Support and a link to a video that can be shared to our congregations and other groups in your local communities.

The FOL officer and committee elections were very successful. Although I was not seeking another term, I am humbled by your confidence in me to serve another term as FOL Chair. With God's help, I will do the best job I can to lead FOL over the next two years. Thanks to Chuck Gildrie for stepping up as Vice Chair, Julie Croft for taking over as FOL Secretary (thanks to Melissa Mason for an outstanding job as FOL Secretary!) and Jim Hayes for staying on as Treasurer/Projects coordinator. I am also excited about the new individuals who will be serving in our standing committees and bringing new and fresh insight into our mission initiatives in Latvia! I look forward to hearing your ideas!

Finally, we do have a confirmed location for our 2018 FOL meeting! Fairview UMC, Maryville, TN has graciously offered to host the event. We are currently looking at mid-April 2018 as a possible timeframe for the meeting, so make sure you have it on your calendars. More information will be coming as we firm things up.

If your congregation is traveling to Latvia this year for mission work, please send an article and pictures to our FOL Secretary to describe your experiences. We all love to hear about what God is doing through his people in Latvia!

Have a safe and blessed summer!

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mark Croft, Chair
markcroft@hotmail.com
FUMC Grapevine, TX

From Pastor Salary Chair Randy Tolleson

You've Met the Pastors and Felt Their Loving Impact

When one of the pastors from Latvia shares an update or faith story, their emotion tends to appear as gratitude to have been chosen to serve. Their matter of fact observations of helping people in such dire circumstances are just the cards dealt and it's simply seen as their duty - as the hands and feet of Christ - to step up and help. Time and again I'm honored to be with these Latvian pastors and to hear of their deep faith and complete reliance on God's faithfulness. You've heard the stories and none of us doubt the positive impact of their good news and of their service.

Be sure to step up and support this good work with planned giving through the Pastor's Salary Advance. Any amount helps them help people in serious need.

You may [click here](#) for video and handout resources to share the story of these pastors in your church and in your community.

From Camp Wesley Chair Chris Greene

Great opportunity for Wesley Camp!

I have some great news to share in regards to Cabins at Wesley Camp. We have two donors that has agreed to match up-to \$13,000 in raised funds to begin construction and complete the first cabin at Wesley Camp this year!

Gunta and Roberts have been working hard to gather concrete figures for the cost to complete the first cabin at Wesley Camp. The Wesley board and myself, as do many of you, believe that completion of the cabins are a high priority at camp, especially since the work already in progress is showing signs of decay.

Here are the cost:

1. Reconstruction of weather decayed flooring: 150 euro
2. Cabin Plan A: Sleeps 8 or more people. Materials and labor for a cabin is an estimated total of 13450 euro
3. Cabin Plan B: Adding an attic to the above plan for extra sleeping. This would double the amount of people, sleeping 16 or more! Plan B would be an additional 3980 euro.

The attic would need to be built in the initial stage, otherwise it would cost much more to add later.

Our challenge: In order to complete a cabin this year, the construction team will need to start no later than the end of May. As you know, the construction window is small due to the weather. What makes our window even smaller is that we need to have a good idea if can proceed within the next couple of weeks.

I am excited and believe that if we work together we can make this happen. It is definitely possible that with the Lord's help and guidance we together could raise enough funds to build two cabins. Wouldn't that be an amazing blessing!

A matching donor peaks the interest of people who might contribute to a fund. Let's use this opportunity to fund a capital need at camp and see where the Lord leads us the next couple of weeks.

Please contact me for questions, or for progress on funds for a cabin. Thanks!

In His Service

Chris Greene

Chair, Wesley Camp Advisory Board

205-292-9458

Officers 2017-2019:

Mark Croft, Chair
markcroft@hotmail.com
First UMC
Grapevine, TX

Chuck Gildrie, Vice-Chair
gildriec@gmail.com
Fairview UMC
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jrhayes46@bellsouth.net
Norris UMC
Norris, TN

Julie Croft, Secretary
secretary.fol@gmail.com
FUMC Grapevine
Grapevine, TX

Standing Committees

Wesley Camp
Chris Greene – Chair, Richard Payne, Lawton Higgs, Antra Griffith, Kay Davis, Joe Acker

Hope Center
Steve Pullins-Chair, Jim Nance, Holt Cason, Dana McCarty, Kristine Rozefelde, Gita Mednis, Wayne Richards

Pastor's Income
Randy Tolleson, Mark & Julie Croft, Chuck Gildrie, Edgars Šneiders, Janis Grunte, Jim Hayes

Wesley Camp Scholarships



Wesley Camp needs us to be more vigilant about fundraising to continue to support this ministry.

If churches could together raise enough scholarship funds for

200 campers at \$100 each...

...that would be enough to pay for both the camper expenses and for the expense of keeping the camp open.

Give your scholarship donations through

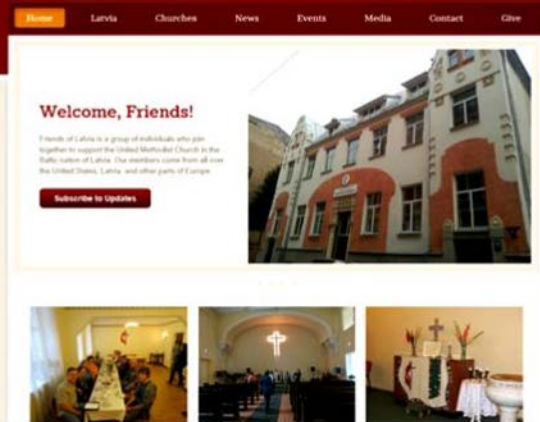
www.umcmmission.org/advance

Project Number: 15160N

Connect Online

The Friends of Latvia website contains contact information for each of the churches in Latvia, the latest news, upcoming mission trip dates and events and links to Advance giving. If you have information you'd like to share on the website, please email it to FOL Secretary, Julie Croft, at secretary.fol@gmail.com.

Friends of Latvia



friendsoflatvia.weebly.com

Connect

Don't forget to be in communication with our friends in Latvia...
to nurture and grow your relationships!

Cēsis

Pastor: Kristīne Rozefelde | kristine.rozefelde@gmail.com

LAMB Cēsu draudze

Vaļņu iela 12a, Cēsis, LV - 4100

Jelgava

Pastor: Jānis Baumanis | janis@galileja.lv

LAMB Jelgavas draudze

Zemgales pr. 3, Jelgava, LV-3001

Kuldīga

Pastor: Zinta Dzintara | zinta_dz@inbox.lv

LAMB Kuldīgas draudze

Polijas iela 8, Kuldīga, LV - 3301

Liepa

Latvian Pastor: Ilzīte Ozola | iloze@inbox.lv

Russian Pastor: Vera Titoviča | vera.titovica@inbox.lv

LAMB Liepas draudze

"Madaras", p.k. 38, Liepa, Liepas pag, Priekuļu novads, LV - 4128

Liepāja

Pastors: Edgars Šneiders | esneiders@inbox.lv

Gunta Grīna-Sologuba | ggrinasologuba@gmail.com

LAMB Liepājas draudze

Brīvības iela 25, Liepāja, LV - 3400

Matras

Pastor: Jānis Grunte | janislatvia@gmail.com

LAMB Mātrās draudze

Mātrās, Medzes pag, Grobiņas novads, LV - 3461

Paplaka

Pastor: Inese Budņika | b_inese@hotmail.com

LAMB Paplakas draudze

"Atvasaras", Paplaka, Virgas pag, Priekules novads, LV - 3433

Rīga 1st

Pastor: Astra Dannenfelte | danne@inbox.lv

LAMB Rīgas 1. draudze

Akas iela 13, Rīga, LV 1011

Rīga 2nd

Pastor: Andris Vainovskis | Vainovskis.andris@gmail.com

LAMB Rīgas 2. draudze

Slokas iela 6, Rīga, LV-1048

Sarkani

Pastor: Vera Titoviča | vera.titovica@inbox.lv

LAMB Sarkaņu draudze

Sarkaņi 7 - 3, Sarkaņi, Liepas pag, Priekuļu novads, LV-4128

Tāsi

Pastor: Gunta Grīna-Sologuba | ggrinasologuba@gmail.com

LAMB Tāšu draudze

Tāši, Medzes pag, Grobiņas novads, LV-3460

Youth Ministry Coordinator of UMC in Latvia

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Office Manager of UMC in Latvia

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Latvia District Superintendent

Edgars Šneiders | esneiders@inbox.lv

The Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference

Bishop of the Nordic and Baltic Area: Christian Alsted

bishop@umc-ne.org