

AUGUST 2012

COMPLIMENTARY

# BIRMINGHAM

CHRISTIAN FAMILY<sup>®</sup>

*Celebrating 12 Years of Good News*



# SUMMER FUN in the SOUTH

## 5 Big Reasons to Visit Roanoke, VA

The minute I stepped onto the tarmac of the Roanoke Regional Airport I was met with the sweet relief of cool summer breezes. From Birmingham, I was able to get to Roanoke in two short flights within a matter of a few hours. Tucked in between Virginia's Blue Ridge, Roanoke offers a plethora of surprises that appeal not only to the senses but also to the intellect. The Roanoke Star sits high above the city on Mill Mountain, watching over her like a shepherd watching his flock. Just as there are five points to the star, I discovered five reasons to visit Roanoke:

**1. Farm to Table Restaurants:** With more restaurants per capita than any other area of Virginia, the Roanoke Valley serves delicious dishes that feature locally-grown ingredients. The abundance of local farms in southwest Virginia provides chefs with a variety of flavors for tasty and exciting cuisine.



**2. The Arts & Culture Scene:** The arts scene of the Roanoke Valley includes a variety of local artisans and musicians. The Taubman Museum boasts a nice collection of rare finds. The area's rail heritage is highlighted through the Virginia Museum of Transportation and the O. Winston Link Museum.



**3. Events for the Season:** The beauty of the changing seasons is an opportunity to celebrate, and the Roanoke Valley makes the most of the opportunity. Between the Dogwood Festival in the Spring, the Salem Fair Festival in the Summer, the Smith Mountain Lake Wine Festival in the Fall, and the Dickens of a Christmas Celebration in Winter, the Roanoke Valley has every season covered, and these are just a few of the most popular special events.



**4. Walkable Downtown:** Downtown Roanoke is the historic center for the City of Roanoke. A variety of historic buildings, artistry, cuisine and architecture are evident around every corner. A walk through downtown gives you the opportunity to look into the past as well as a glimpse into the future of this fascinating city.



**5. Natural Beauty:** Roanoke is surrounded by the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains that offer outdoor enthusiasts endless options to explore caves, rivers, waterfalls, and rock formations by kayak, canoe, foot, or car.

—Kimberly Carter Robinson