

## INTRODUCING ROANOKE–BLACKSBURG DISTRICT

The Roanoke–Blacksburg District held its year-end general meeting at the home of Fumiko Eastep in Bluefield, West Va., on a clear sunny, November day. Beautiful hues and shades of light danced on valleys and mountains for those driving in from the east. Several students from the Bluefield neighborhood attended. Brad Martin, from Radford, Va., brought his fiancée, Kristen.

Following bestowal and exchange of Gohonzon, participants introduced themselves, then quickly related highlights of their Buddhist practice; busy schedules and long distances meant that many attending had not met before this wonderful day.

Using the panel discussion from the Culture Department video on the subject of the mentor–disciple relationship, participants explored various shades of meaning of the mentor–disciple relationship. They emerged with the understanding that a mentor by definition is an influence for good, as opposed to someone who leads people astray, even though that person might also be termed a leader. All agreed with Herbie Hancock, one of the panel participants on the video, that President Ikeda is a mentor in the “art of living.”

—*DILYS SCOTT, ROANOKE, VA.*