



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

January 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a pleasant and safe holiday season, even if it has been different than usual. Let us pray that 2021 will allow some things to return to a more normal way of operating. It will be nice to have in person meetings again as restrictions are lifted, but **for the present time though all UMW meetings will be held via Zoom.**

For 2021, please make a commitment to support the WUMW with your talents, your time and with your financial support by paying your 2021 pledge. After revising the Membership Directory for this year, our membership is now at 120 ladies. This number has been going down for several years now as members passed away or moved away. Our budget for this year reflects the 120 members. Some expenses, especially those that we pay the York River District, are based on our reported membership. Other expenses like costs for Response magazine and books for the library do not change much from year to year. For 2021, the pledge amount for each member is **\$50.00**. Our payments to the York River District are paid in part in March so it is helpful if ladies pay their pledges at the beginning of the year. In normal times, Linda Upshaw would have visited each circle during January to encourage members to support the UMW. This year you are to send your pledge to your circle treasurer who will keep track of your payment and forward the payment to Linda. Linda would also have explained the criteria involved in becoming a Rainbow Giver. If you are interested in being a Rainbow Giver contact Linda or me. The cost for this is \$110. That includes the \$50 pledge to our unit.

I am happy to announce a name change. The members of the circle formerly known as the Susanna Wesley Circle voted unanimously to change the name to the Ruth Simpson Circle. You will see that change in the new membership directory when you get it. I believe Ruth would

be honored and pleased with the change. What a fitting way to honor a long-time member of our UMW!

I look forward to working with all of you in 2021!

Janet

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott Circle held our first zoom meeting on January 12. Nine members were present. Jeanne Forrest gave our program on “Intentional Prayer.” New UMW yearbooks have been sent to all members, and the ladies were reminded of our UMW pledges. We plan to meet in February by way of zoom.

The **Friendship Circle** finds that the pandemic has certainly narrowed our social circle. Long distance, and close relationships are maintained by frequent phone calls and by email. Friendship circle members look forward to meeting in person. Until then we remain faithful and persevere. Remember the Beatles—we “get by with the help of our friends.”

The Susanna Wesley Circle has voted to change our name so we are now known as the **Ruth Simpson Circle** in honor of our late member. Ruth was one of the founding members of this Circle and a former Circle Chair. She was also the Rada Cutlery chairperson for over twenty years. We miss her and are happy we can honor her memory in this way. At year’s end, our Circle always donates the profit from our Rada Cutlery project to local non-profit organizations. This year we have chosen FISH as the recipient and are sending \$100 to them. This is a good time to remind everyone that our Rada Cutlery fundraising project is always open for business. All Rada knives and kitchen utensils are made in the U.S.A., are affordable in price and are quality products that come with a lifetime guarantee, We

carry a nice selection of various kinds and sizes of knives as well as other miscellaneous kitchen utensils, and we also have a selection of convenient pre-packaged gift sets of our most popular items. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items or would like more information, please call Bonnie Knizatko at 757-253-0992.

In December, **Sisters in Faith Circle** moved our activities outdoors on two occasions. Kay Colton contacted the Salvation Army and asked what could our ladies do to help this year. Our first project was ringing bells over 2 days at the Food Lion on John Tyler Highway. Eighteen of our ladies and Wil Colton dressed warmly, braved the cold, rang the bells and greeted the shoppers. All agreed it was fun and worthwhile. Then on December 8th, 25 ladies dropped off Christmas presents for children to be given out by the Salvation Army. Kay was our chief organizer, and Bonnie Knizatko donated her driveway for the drop off. Everyone was social distanced and wore masks, and afterward, everyone was able to take home a bag of homemade cookies. The next day Bonnie delivered a car trunk and back seat full of gifts to the Salvation Army. Several ladies bought clothes and snacks for Christmas presents for residents at Envoy Nursing home. We continue to pray for Carol Brinkley who continues with chemo treatments.

On January 12th via Zoom, **Sisters in Faith Circle**, met with 21 ladies in attendance. Kay Colton gave our devotion dedicated to the nurses and other health care and essential workers who are giving so much of themselves during the pandemic. Linda Upshaw reviewed the World Thank Offering considerations for Jan and Feb. Susan Sallwassar gave an update on the UMC church priorities for the General Assembly and UMW members were encouraged on sign up online for the week's session. Jeannie Niebel gave a presentation with a video detailing the illegal arrest of Bensar Sirhaan by ICE in fall of 2020. Bensar is a member of her former church Glenmont UMC in MD. Through the efforts of their church members, other churches and the community Bensar is now back in his home. This story details what Social Action can accomplish.

A number of our ladies have signed up for The Crockpot Ministry. We continue to pray, and send emails, cards and meals for Carol Brinkley, and we are keeping the Sam's in our prayers and helping with meals as Mike is in the midst of chemotherapy.

CONCERN AND CONNECTION

Dorothy Rascoe, a former UMW President now in her 90s, a resident at Windsor Meade and first organizer of Shepherd's Fold, continues to enjoy cards and even a short phone call if she is near the phone. Dorothy Rascoe, 3900 Windsor Hall Dr., Hadley Place #10, Williamsburg, VA 23188, phone 757-941-2308.

WORLD THANK OFFERING

Linda Upshaw has prepared information on the World Thank Offering so we can be saving all year long.

What is it? Since 1881 members of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations have had the opportunity to contribute to an offering in response to God's grace. Some women drop a coin in a box daily as an expression of thankfulness. Others add coins and dollars in celebration of special occasions in their lives. The World Thank Offering is one of the five channels of Mission Giving of United Methodist Women. The World Thank Offering supports national and international programs working with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.

When do I turn this offering into UMW?

By November 23, 2021.

Thank you for your support during 2020

Our unit contributed \$1,158.71. It was fun for me being creative each month so let's have another fun year

I need some ideas--do you have any?

YES I DO.... and the monthly fun activities begin now, ready???

January Let's hope 2021 will be the year COVID is not our #1 worry. The challenge this month is to open your refrigerator. Now look for any liquids (milk, water, soda, etc.) \$.20 for each container of liquid. The sounds of coins dropping into your presently empty jar/box should bring a smile.

February Your challenge is to think about all those chilly days. Where might you be sitting to stay warm? Why, in your cozy chair! Your challenge is to count all the chairs in your home. How about \$.10 for each chair?

If you would like a World Thank Offering box I have plenty or a sticker that says World Thank Offering just text or call me and I will deliver. Have FUN!!!