



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

October 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janet Henke

Well thankfully Hurricane Florence passed us by in Williamsburg. Our thoughts and prayers continue to pour out to those who were affected, especially those in North and South Carolina and central Virginia. By dodging the storm here, we were able to enjoy a wonderful ice cream social on Sunday afternoon. A record number of ladies, children, and a few men attended. After enjoying ice cream sundaes, we listened to Betty Forbes, a Trustee for Ferrum College. Betty shared information about the college but also about the 150 years of history of the UMW. Thanks for Mary Jo Bennett for her hard work in planning this year's event. Thanks also to all of the ladies who baked, helped set up, spoke during the program and helped with the clean-up. Special thanks to Dick Bennett who manned the dishwasher.

Plan to attend our next General Meeting at 10:00 am on October 20, our Call to Prayer and Self Denial. Elizabeth Ameling of Latisha's House will be the speaker.

If you haven't already contributed your pledge for this year, please consider making a payment before the end of the calendar year. These funds support our year long expenses and District expenses.

Remember World Thank offerings are due in November!

SOCIAL ACTION

Karen McPherson

As we begin what always seems like a new year – September, when school starts and we all wistfully take leave of vacations and turn our attention to work, school, volunteer activities, and the coming holidays, it's a good time to think about the Social Action priorities set by the United Methodist Women. For the years 2016-2020, the UMW has identified four priorities:

[Criminalization of Communities of Color:](#) *Interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline*

[Economic Inequality:](#) *Adopt legislation in states/localities that builds the base for a living wage*

[Climate Justice:](#) *Reduce carbon footprint emissions of corporations and individuals*

[Maternal and Child Health:](#) *Decrease maternal mortality; develop a network of women's health advocates for access to health care and education*

These priorities are all based on the Social Principles in the Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church. Which of these tugs at your heart? Where would you like to see the United Methodist Women at our church focus our efforts this year? Check out what the UMW website has to say about these priorities (<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/issues>) and help us decide what challenge we want to take on.

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on The Carol Scott Circle met September 11, 2018 in the Den. There were 13 members and 2 guests present Dr. Bill Jones, our Pastor gave the program. Dr. Jones shared his and his group's experiences in their recent trip to England through slides and commentary. The cathedrals visited were beautiful. He also shared their visit to John Wesley's home and some history about John Wesley and his brother, Charles. It was a very enlightening and interesting talk.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met September 4. There were 20 members present. Jeff Black, director of the Angels of Mercy Clinic, was the speaker. He talked with the ladies about the need in the greater Williamsburg area for free or reduced cost medical care. Special concerns included care for patients needing to control blood sugar and blood pressure. Clarke Heritage gave a \$200.00 donation to the Angels of Mercy Clinic. We continue to bring new cleaning supplies for Latisha's House and fold and size lingerie at FISH on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

The **Friendship Circle** met on September 11. We had 10 members and 1 guest in attendance. Former WUMC Early Childhood Music School director and Children's choir director Cindy Freeman shared her journey as an author. Upon retirement Cindy tapped into her talent as a writer and won several short story awards. Following that, she turned to novels. She has three published novels with a fourth making its debut later in September. Look for her new novel [I Want to Go Home](#) in the library and in bookstores. Cindy's novels can be purchased on Amazon or directly from Cindy.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on Tuesday, September 4. with four (4) ladies present. The program was 'How God Can Use a Human Being When He Has All the Angels Busy'. Four ladies, Mary Spence and Gwen Hamrick were present, with another lady joining us following her participation in another activity. Following the program, each lady told their stories of how God used human beings to come to their personal rescue when they were in great need. We were all so touched how God always provides and how as Christians we must always listen to God's voice and/or His urging when someone else is in need. Those present were urged to invite their friends and acquaintances to attend the next meeting at Brookdale in early October. The meeting ended with prayer and praises to God for His blessings. Refreshments were served, and we parted with lots of hugs and getting acquainted.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on Monday, September 10 in the church den. We had 10 members present. Peggy Soulen provided our devotions. The program was "Sharing Our Summer Experiences" which was enjoyed by all. During the year, our circle will be collecting items for Health Kits.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on September 11. The program was presented by William McElfresh on recycling plastic, what plastic is doing to the environment, and different uses for recycling plastic bags such as weaving mats. The entire Sisters in Faith Circle took up the challenge of not accepting plastic bags from stores for the next month but to use paper bag or reusable bags brought to the store. They suggested donating a nickel for each plastic bag not used to the World Thank offering in November. There were 13 members and 4 guests in attendance.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met in Room 309 on September 5 at 10:00 am. There were 11 members and 2 guests present. Our speakers were Betsy Fowler, Director of the Williamsburg Regional Library and Barry Trot, Special Project Director. They talked about all the wonderful programs the Library is offering in Williamsburg and the James City County Library. Also, they discussed the future of the Library and the different ideas on how to expand the parking at the Williamsburg Library. Our Circle continues to bring socks, underwear and food items for FISH. We also collect can tabs for Ronald McDonald House and stamps and labels.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on Tuesday, September 18. Bonnie Knizatko led the meeting in Ruth Simpson's absence. There were 6 ladies and 1 guest, Dick Storey, present to hear Dr. Bill Jones speak about the trip to Great Britain. This Circle voted yes for the bazaar next year! They also approved a Gift Card for Andy and Amie Glascott and their soon to be born offspring.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Ellie Gillen is at home and unable to attend meetings and meet with others.

Charlotte Litterer is currently recovering at home.

Ruth Simpson is at home.

JOYS

Lieutenant Colonel Kyle Upshaw, son of Linda Upshaw, safely returned on Thursday, September 13 from his 8 months deployment in Iraq. "I want to thank all of the UMW who had Kyle in their thoughts and prayers. I am a very proud Mom." Linda

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

October 6

York River District UMW Annual Meeting
9:30 am

October 20

WUMW Call to Prayer and Self-Denial
10:00 am in Fellowship Hall

October 22

WUMW Board Meeting
7:00 pm in Room 309