



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

November 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janet Henke

Five UMW members from Williamsburg UMC traveled to Bellamy UMC on Saturday, October 6. What a glorious day it was for all the ladies in attendance at the Annual York River District meeting. With fall comes the time when we begin to look ahead to next year in the life of our UMW. The WUMC brought home a 6 Star award for Living Into Our Purpose and a Gold Award for our support of missions. Both of these awards recognize all of the hard work and dedication of each of our members. Thank you for your continued support. WUMC also received numerous Reading Certificates that will be distributed at our General Meeting and Installation on November 11th.

We will be having a Bazaar in 2019. In order to cut back some on the amount of work required before we even get to the first Saturday in November 2019, we will offer fewer dates for people to bring us items to be sold. We also plan to limit the types of items we solicit. Collections will start in August and continue through October. Dates will be published in the spring. At the January Board meeting Circles will choose the booths they will work on. It will be important for all members to support us in this important program since all profits go directly to support our missions.

I hope to see many to you at the General Meeting and Installation on Sunday, November 11.

SOCIAL ACTION

Karen McPherson

Last month I asked the Circles to examine the alternatives for the Social Action focus for the upcoming year. Based on the responses I got, I'm planning to focus on Economic Inequality. According to the UMW website, income and wealth inequality in the United States impacts women and communities of color, which, in turn, further marginalizes those who may already be vulnerable. Decades of poor policy choices got us to this point. Fair and just policy changes now could reverse the income and wealth gap. United Methodist Women are called to act locally and

in national efforts to begin to bridge the inequality gap. The United States has seen a major shift in concentration of income and wealth in recent decades, making life harder for the majority. Too many jobs pay minimum wage (or less for tipped workers), which cannot sustain a family. Women make up 75 percent of these low wage workers, and they are disproportionately women of color. In the upcoming months, I will be providing resources to help increase our understanding of economic inequality in Williamsburg, in Virginia, in the United States, and across the world. In addition, I will be looking for ways we can combat economic inequality in our community.

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met October 9 and there were 12 members present. Our guest speaker was Joanne Sutlive who gave a very interesting and very informative talk from a missionary wife's point of view. She spoke of learning a new language, home schooling her children, traveling by river, teaching women with TB to read and of her husband, Dr. Vinson Sutlive's work in developing a seminary. Mrs. Sutlive also spoke of their work after returning to the states. She is a reading specialist, and Dr. Sutlive is a professor of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary. They were missionaries in Sarawak, a part of Malaysia. The language learned was Iban, similar to a Polynesian language.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met October 2nd with 20 members and one guest present. Mary Spence shared information about the upcoming UMW *Call to Prayer and Self Denial*. The speaker will be Elizabeth Ameling, Director of Latisha's House. Our speaker for the meeting was Rev. Charles Swadley who spoke to us about the origin and workings of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. He talked about current issues and how they relate to the *Methodist Book of Discipline*. Each member was given a copy of the book *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church*. Our Circle continues with our work at FISH folding sleepwear and lingerie and collecting cleaning supplies for Latisha's House and manicure supplies for Envoy nursing home.

The **Friendship Circle** met on October 9 and had 7 members and 1 guest in attendance. The group sorted hundreds of greeting cards to be used by Shepherd's Fold. These birthday cards, get well cards, *Thinking of You* cards, and others will bring cheer to those WUMC members who are unable to attend worship services. Of course, much chatting occurred while we sorted. Mary Spence brought information about the upcoming Call to Prayer and Self Denial which will take place on October 20. Members brought 26 items to be donated to ARC for use at their Bingo games. We contributed puzzles, scarves, hats, gloves, socks, hair accessories, jewelry and sugar-free candy.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on Tuesday, October 2, at 1:30 p.m. with four members present, plus their leader. Our lesson was our 'God Given Gifts and How We Can Use Them'. These ladies are always amazing! As a way of encouraging all of us, I asked them to be free about how God has used them, using the gifts that only God can give. These ladies are not teenagers or young adults, but they traveled back in time (by many years) telling how God has used them by using His Precious Gifts. What encouragement all of them are to me and they make it so easy for me to love each one of them. We closed by my thanking them for using those precious gifts, encouraged them to continue using their God-given gifts and reminded them to invite their friends to our meetings. We closed with prayer and a reminder to continue using God's gifts to them.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on Monday, October 1st in the church den. We had 9 members in attendance. Our program was given by one of our members, Peggy Soulen. She took us on a "tour" of Jamestown Settlement's history and its importance to Virginia. We thank Peggy for her knowledge of Jamestown and her willingness to pass some of it on to us. Mary Spence, also one of our members, encouraged our attendance at the WUMW Call to Prayer and Self-Denial on October 10. We were happy to see Marylyn Voorhess with us on Monday.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met Sisters in Faith met on Tuesday, October 9th. We had 13 members present and 3 guests. Cindy Freeman spoke to us about her journey to becoming a published author.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met October 3rd and there were 11 members present and 2 guests. Our speaker was Mary Yates. Mary gave a very interesting program about rainbows, where they can be found in the bible and what each color represents. Our circle continues to bring items for FISH and can tabs for the Ronald McDonald house.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on Tuesday, October 16. Bonnie Knizatko led the meeting in Ruth Simpson's absence. There were 6 ladies present to hear Andy Glascott speak about the youth mission trip to Great Britain. He also talked about the baby shower and the upcoming arrival of the baby.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

As Thanksgiving approaches, let us all be in prayer for all of our blessings. Let us keep in mind those less fortunate especially those whose lives have been so significantly changed by storms and fires.

JOYS

Congratulations to Andy and Amy on the birth of their daughter.

IN SYMPATHY

UMW extend their sympathy to the family of Charlotte Literer, a member of Clarke Heritage Circle.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

General Meeting & Installation Service

November 11 at 2:00 pm
In the Fellowship Hall

UMW Board Meeting

November 26 at 7:00 pm
In Room 309

World Thank Offering due

November 26

York River District Advent Breakfast

December 8