



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

December 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again, the Christmas holiday season is upon us. It is a great time to stop and reflect upon our many blessings here at Williamsburg United Methodist Church. I want to take this time to thank the Officers and Mission Coordinators whose terms of office are ending this month. Special thanks to Fran Lane for her excellent minutes of the Executive Board meetings each month and for the articles she submitted to the Virginia Gazette. Also special thanks to Mary Spence who opened and closed each of our meetings with heartfelt devotions that left us all with something to think about.

As we begin planning for the Bazaar next November, it will be helpful to have all our members willing to give time and energy, especially energy, to the collection dates and to the Bazaar itself. Mark your calendars for next November 2nd.

Thanks to Connie Bland for the lovely General Meeting and Installation on November 11th. The pie and the fellowship added to the afternoon. Pastor Bill challenged each of the new officers and Mission Coordinators as we lit candles during the Installation. There are still a few positions that need to be filled. Please pray fully consider assuming one of these. Most require only a minimal amount of time each month and some do not require your attendance at the monthly Board meetings. Membership in an organization like the UMW sometimes requires more than monthly attendance at a Circle meeting. Can you help? We need someone to assume the position of Spiritual Growth chair and Historian. Also, we need someone to plan the Candle Burning.

Merry Christmas! I look forward to a great 2020.

SOCIAL ACTIONS

Karen McPherson

This past September, the UMW at Williamsburg UMC decided to take on the issue of economic inequality in our community and the wider world as our focus for this year.

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), whose stated mission is to “advocate for economic and social justice in Virginia’s policies and practices through education, prayer and action” has

adopted the issue of Wage Justice as one of its priorities for the coming year. You can learn more about this issue by visiting their website at (<https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/issues/wage-justice/wage-theft-virginia/>) to read what they have to say about this important topic.

Issues of economic inequality can seem overwhelming, but the VICPP identifies some things we can do as individuals to try to steer our community in the direction of greater wage justice. Several communities in Virginia (Richmond, Alexandria, Charlottesville, and Harrisonburg) have begun projects to identify businesses that treat their workers fairly, to urge consumers to patronize these businesses, and to apply pressure on businesses who do not pay their workers justly. With a little creativity and passion, we could begin the same kind of initiative in Williamsburg. All it takes is a few people who care!

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met November 13, and there were 11 members present. Dr. Jeanne Forrest gave a very interesting and informative program. Following successful careers as a Professional Singer, Voice Teacher and Real Estate Agent, Jeanne received a call to ministry. After graduating from the Duke University Divinity School, she was ordained and then ventured into intensive studies in Grief Support and Chaplaincy. Jeanne is recognized as a Pastoral Care Specialist by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and has served in various capacities in Church Ministry. She finds her real passion in the classes and seminars she plans and leads. Her message of believing in yourself and keeping positive thoughts of yourself and others was so inspiring. She taught us helpful breathing exercises and to be aware of doubts and to not let them get in one’s way of happiness. Always be aware of your thoughts, words and actions. They can make a big difference. It was a very uplifting program.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on November 11. There were 13 members present. Our speaker was Hasbrouck Hughes who spoke to us about UMCOR, the United Methodist organization that provides humanitarian aid around the world. We continue to volunteer at Fish and collect house cleaning supplies for Latisha’s house. We are also donating children’s clothing for children on the Salvation Army Gift Tree.

The **Friendship Circle** met on November 13 and we had 11 members and 3 guests present. Our speaker was David Hindman. He shared with the group his experiences in walking the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James). Having walked the pilgrim route 3 times, David began the route in France, Spain, and Portugal ... each time ending at the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. Through numerous photos and also a video made by daughter Grace as they walked together in August this year, David shared "What I learned along the Way." (David's earlier times to walk portions of the Camino were with Steve Jones and with his son Ben.) Walking in the way Pilgrims have walked these routes for over 1,000 years, David inspired each of us.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on November 13th with 21 members and 2 guests present. We all enjoyed hearing from Pastor Meghan on her faith journey and calling to ordained ministry.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on Monday, November 5 in the Church Den. We had 6 members in attendance. Our program was given by Rev. Max Blalock of Campus Ministries. His presentation was most enjoyable, and we all learned so much about the workings of this group of young people. We continue to donate items for the Health Kits and food for Fish. We look forward to a casual get-together at our December meeting with coffee and cookies, etc. We always gather monies to donate to a family for the holidays.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met November 13th with 21 members and 2 guests present. We all enjoyed hearing from Pastor Meghan on her faith journey and calling to ordained ministry.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met on November 7th. There were 14 members and 8 guest present at the meeting. Rev. Bill Jones gave a very good program about the John Wesley trip he took to England. He had a lot of wonderful pictures to share and we really enjoyed hearing about all the different things he saw. After our program we had a reception for Vince and Joanne Sutlive who are moving to Kentucky. Joanne was one of the first members of the Susanna Wesley Circle and will be greatly missed. Our circle continues to bring socks, underwear and food items for FISH and can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on Tuesday, November 20th. There were 6 members and 2 guests present. The program was about Thanksgiving memories. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed exchanging stories of Thanksgivings past.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Prayers are requested for Mary Robinson as she recovers from a stroke.
Clark Heritage Circle

JOYS

IN SYMPATHY

Our prays are with Wilma Browning on the recent loss of her husband Bob
Olive Casey Circle

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

January 28 UMW Executive Board Meeting 7:00
January 31 United Methodist Day at the General Assembly