



# UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

February 2017

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I hope everyone stayed warm and safe during the first snowfall of 2017. Listening to the news reports, it seemed strange to hear that Williamsburg had the highest snowfall totals in the area.

This year promises to be a busy year for WUMC and for the UMW. It is a Bazaar year if we choose to have our Bazaar. People from within our church and others from the outside have already been inquiring about it. One of the first decisions we will make will be regarding the Bazaar date which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 4. We need to think about the size of the Bazaar and the types of booths that we will offer. We also need to think about other groups in our church that might be able to help us with this monumental undertaking. Each Circle will be asked to discuss the Bazaar at their February meeting.

By the time you receive this issue of the newsletter, the United Day Methodist Day in Richmond will have already happened. This year the visit to Richmond coincided with Groundhog Day. None of the participants from WUMC or other Methodist churches in the Virginia Conference want to hide out for six more weeks of winter! More on the visit to Richmond in the next issue.

I would like to share a few words about our budget for the upcoming year. The membership in the WUMW has decreased in the past year. We now stand at 170 members, down from 196 members last year. In order to meet our obligations to the district and to things we support, like our youth mission trips, our reading program and recognition awards, our Pledge to Missions and the administrative costs we pay to the District, we have suggested donations of \$48 per member. It is not necessary to support the entire budget but each donation is greatly appreciated. Donations can be given to your Circle's treasurer or to the UMW treasurer, Linda Upshaw. The entire budget for 2017 is \$8,150. Detailed information on this year's budget can be found in the 2017 membership book on pages 5 & 6.

I am looking forward to working with all of you in 2017!

*Janet*

## SOCIAL ACTION

### CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** did not meet on January 7 was cancelled due to the lingering ice and snow. They will meet in February on Valentine's Day.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on January 3 and there were 12 members and one guest present. Our speaker was Kimberly Barbarji, director of the Grace Haven Family Shelter. This is a new endeavor that provides temporary housing for a family for a period of up to 3 months. During this time, the staff will assist the family with the skills they need to find permanent housing. This includes things like managing finances and shopping for and preparing healthy meals. We also discussed the upcoming Bazaar and came up with ideas for what we wanted to do. The meeting ended with a delicious soup luncheon.

The **Friendship Circle** did not have a January meeting due to the weather. At their February meeting they will be packing vitamins for the Carolina Honduras Health Foundation, a mission that serves people in the remote areas of Honduras.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on January 3. The program was on the Pencil Parable. The ladies compared the sharp lead in the center of the pencil to the importance of leading a God centered life.

The **Olive Casey Circle** did not meet in January due to the lingering ice and snow.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on January 10. Our speaker was Monis Rokhsehat, a young woman from Iran who is living in Williamsburg. Her husband, Abbas, joined us for a lively and informative question and answer session on growing up in Iran and the adjustments to living in the US. They also shared information about Islam and the Muslim faith.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met on January 4. There were 12 members present. Our program was given by Bonnie Knizatko on the Red Bird Mission, about how it started and how it has been in existence for a hundred years, and about all the good work it is doing in the Appalachian region in Kentucky. The mission can be helped by saving box tops and soup labels for education. Our circle donates non-perishable food items and children's socks and underwear to FISH. We collect pop-top tabs for

Ronald McDonald Charities and sell knives to raise funds for missions.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on Tuesday, January 17. Bonnie Knizatko presented the program on the Red Bird Mission, about how it started and how it has been in existence for a hundred years, and about all the good work it is doing in the Appalachian region in Kentucky.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

- ❖ February 2 – VA Conference  
United Methodist Day at the  
General Assembly
- ❖ February 27 – WUMW Board  
Meeting, 7:00 PM. Room 309
- ❖ March 11 – York River District  
Unit Presidents Meeting, Wesley  
UMC, Hampton, 10:30 AM
- ❖ March 25 – WUMW Candle  
Burning Service, 10:00 AM,  
Fellowship Hall
- ❖ UMW Sunday – April 30