



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

February 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janet Henke

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a pleasant and safe holiday season. It is nice as we gear up for the 2018 UMW year to realize that we are not planning a bazaar this year. It was a lot of work, but we have raised \$14,711 to be disbursed over 2018 and 2019 for missions. Thanks again to all who gave countless hours of work to make it a success.

For 2018, please make a commitment to support the WUMW with your talents, your time and with your financial support by paying your 2018 pledge. After revising the Membership Directory for this year, our membership is now at 155 ladies. Our budget for this year reflects that number. 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 2018, the pledge amount for each member is \$42.00. Linda Upshaw will have visited each Circle during January to encourage members to support the UMW. She will also have explained the criteria involved in becoming a Rainbow Giver. If you have additional questions about the budget or the Rainbow Giver program, please contact me or Linda Upshaw.

The Executive Board has set a goal for 2018 to invite more of our members to attend our general meetings in addition to the monthly Circle meetings. Look for more information about each meeting in *The Messenger, Updates and Reflections* and monthly UMW Board minutes. We average about 35 members per event and would like to increase that number to at least 50 ladies. More would be great.

I look forward to working with all of you in 2018!

SOCIAL ACTION

Karen McPherson

Social Action assisted in a Virginia Interfaith Council press conference which took place at 10:00 am on Friday, December 1, 2017, at the Williamsburg Baptist Church on Richmond Road where they announce the release of "How Medicaid Works." This new publication by the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Policy Analysis is intended to explain the

implications for Virginia of the failure to expand Medicaid in the Commonwealth.

This press conference included speakers with policy expertise, clergy from the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities, and individuals from the community whose stories illustrate the continuing plight of the most vulnerable among us as they try to make responsible health care decisions for their families.

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on January 9. There were 12 members and 1 guest present. Linda Upshaw was our speaker. Her program was, "Are You A Who Body?" Linda challenged and inspired us to be a "Who Body!" What kind of person and friend do you want to be? She shared a fun game, "Who Are You". We all learned new things about each other and were laughing and enjoying our friendship as a Circle! We were so surprised at some of the fun things we all learned about each other. We will try to generously share our friendship with all who are around us and beyond.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on December 5 and January 9. Our speaker in December was Carolyn Munroe and she gave a very interesting talk on the history of lace making. She showed us pictures of some of the early lace and shared the Christian influences that led to the various patterns. We donated items for 3 children to the Salvation Army Christmas Drive. We also donated cleaning supplies to Latisha's House. After the meeting, we celebrated the Holidays with lunch at Sal's Restaurant!

For our January meeting, there were 16 members present and we welcomed a new member, Lo Ann Donley. Linda Upshaw gave a budget report for the UMW Board. She talked about the pledges that the UMW collect and she wanted to make sure that members know that all of the pledge money and money from the Bazaar goes directly to support missions. Our circle is providing cleaning supplies to Latisha's House and members will bring the supplies to each meeting.

The **Friendship Circle** met on December 11. There were 4 members present and 2 guests. We had a Christmas luncheon at the home of Vikki DiToto.

We had much friendly discussions about church activities, past and present, and also current family activities. We enjoyed a time of warmth and friendship!

Our first meeting of 2018 took place on January 9. There were 10 members and 2 guests present. Our speaker, Pastor Meghan Clayton, shared with us the story of her call to ministry. She inspired us with her stories of God's surprises in her life and yet she reassured us that God has a plan for each of us. We planned our meetings for 2018, shared stories of enduring during the early January cold, and decided on donations from our Sunshine fund. We are collecting pencils for Honduras.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on January 2 and there were 5 members present. The program was on Peace and realizing that it is a special gift from God and that it comes in many forms. Peace is the happy and natural state of mankind. We will meet again on February 6 and our program will be on acts of Kindness.

The **Olive Casey** January meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on January 9 and there were 9 members present. Linda Upshaw opened with an "icebreaker." She then presented a program on the importance of being a "whobody." She also explained the importance of supporting the budget through our pledges.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met on December 6 at the home of Bonnie Knizatko, there were 11 members present. We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Lunch and then took our donation of stuffed animals to the Eastern State Hospital for their Christmas Party.

Our first 2018 meeting took place on January 3. There were 10 members present and 2 guests. Karen McPherson gave a very interesting program on the Virginia Interfaith Center using a Power Point presentation. She shared information about the initiatives that are their priorities in Virginia. These include economic justice, environmental justice, criminal justice reform, and being a welcoming community to all individuals. Our Circle continues to bring food, socks and underwear for FISH and drink tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on December 19. There were 7 members present. Our speaker for this meeting was Meghan Roth Clayton, our new Associate Pastor. Meghan talked about how

pleased she is to be at our church and her journey to becoming a minister. She also talked about the influence that David Hyman had on her while she was a student at William & Mary. We then talked about some happy memories of Thanksgiving and talked about our upcoming Christmas plans.

At our January 16 meeting, we had 6 members present. Linda Upshaw updated members about the Bazaar, giving us information about how much each booth brought in for missions. She also talked about the pledges for 2018. Jan Woodward was our program speaker and her talk was from the magazine *New World Outlook*, a publication of UMC Global Ministries. She shared stories about young missionaries. Our program ended with circle members sharing their memories from the Christmas holidays.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Prayers for Ellie Gillen who fell recently
(*Clark Heritage Circle*)

JOYS

Fran McKnight is feeling better and prayers are requested for her continued improvement.
(*Clark Heritage Circle*)

IN SYMPATHY

To the family of Ruth Mathew
who passed away on January 5
(*Clark Heritage Circle*)

To the family of Gloria England
Who passed away on January 11
(*Friendship Circle*)

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 1 – United Methodist Day at the General Assembly in Richmond

February 12 – WUMW Book Club meeting at the home of Susan Sallwasser, 201 St. Cuthbert, Fords Colony. Book of choice from the *Spiritual Growth* category.

February 26, 7:00 PM – UMW Board Meeting, Room 309

March 24, 10:00 AM – WUMW Candle Burning Service.