



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

March 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janet Henke

As I write this, spring is in the air. After the snow at the beginning of January it looked like we were in for a long winter. But even though the groundhog having seen his shadow, the weather here is unusually warm. Flowers are blooming, and the air feels warm. Let us hope this trend continues. Wouldn't an early spring be nice!

Spring also means that it is time for our annual Candle Burning program. This year's program will be on March 24th in the Fellowship Hall. Look for Gwen Hamrick at your March Circle meetings with more information. 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. Let's see if we can't start this with the Candle Burning and have at least 50 members present. Bring guests as well.

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. If you have additional questions about the budget or the Rainbow Giver program, please contact me or Linda Upshaw.

Look for more information about Circle meetings in *The Messenger*, *Updates and Reflections* and monthly UMW Board minutes as well as the new, revised church web site.

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

SOCIAL ACTION

United Methodist Day in Richmond took place on February 1. We met with our local legislators to discuss our interests on felony threshold legislation, Medicaid expansion, and wage theft (the illegal underpayment or nonpayment of a worker's wages). I gave a presentation to the Susannah Wesley Circle, to the Aldersgate Sunday School Class and The Sisters in Faith Circle on the activities of the *Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy*. You can follow the activities of this organization on their website. . .

<http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org>

After a 9-year focus by the UMW on Human Trafficking, the final campaign will take place on Super Bowl Sunday, which is known as one of the largest human trafficking event in the US.

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on February 13 at 1:00. There were 13 members and 1 guest present. Elaine Reubush gave a very interesting and inspiring program, "*Seeing God Through the Lens of a Camera*". The incredible photos were shot by her husband on their many travels around the world. We also learned about many animals and plants and their beauty and place in our world. Elaine even took us under the sea in the photos to experience God's work. She and her husband both scuba dive. Their camera goes with them! It was truly a very moving program. Elaine is a retired teacher and her husband, David is a retired NASA engineer.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on February 6 and there were 21 members present. Our speaker was our Associate Pastor, Megan Roth Clayton. She shared the story of her journey into the ministry and information about the various churches she served before coming to our congregation. We continue to collect cleaning supplies for Latisha's House and volunteer once a month at FISH where we fold lingerie. We made a *Gift in Memory* donation in memory of

Ruth Mathews, a member of our circle who passed away on January 6th.

The **Friendship Circle** met on February 13. There were 10 members and 1 guest present including a new member, Margie Smith. We spent the meeting packing medications for the Honduras mission which included 20,000 vitamins, 2,000 acetaminophen, 4,000 IBU, and 3,000 Metformin. We have also prepared and donated 16 UMCOR school kits. We are sending a memorial gift to Respite Care in memory of Gloria England. Gloria was a member of our Circle and also at one time was on the Respite Board.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on February 6 at Brookdale. There were 5 members and 4 guests present. Linda Upshaw presented our program. We continued our study of the *Gifts of the Spirit*, focusing on *Kindness*. We talked about what kindness means in our daily lives and also what kindness looks like. We made Valentine bag treats to give to residents, showing "Acts of Kindness." Each member and guest present also took a treat bag back to their own room/home.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on February 5 in the Church Den. There were 11 members and 1 guest present. The program was given by Peggy Hook who spoke about the various missions that are supported by the United Methodist Women.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on Tuesday, February 13. Karen McPherson gave the program, informing the group about the ministry and actions of the Virginia Interfaith Center, meeting with legislators at the General Assembly and affecting positive change for Virginians, particularly in the field of health issues. Afterward, she told us about a helping website called Lotsahelping Hands where people can sign up to help whenever there is a need.

(<http://lotsahelpinghands.com>)

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met February 7. There were 15 members present and 1 guest. Our guest speaker was, Megan Roth Clayton. She gave a very interesting program about her path to becoming a pastor, then a wife and mother, and how her path lead her to our church. We are so thankful she is with us and really enjoyed her story. Our circle continues to

bring can goods, sock and underwear for FISH, also we are working on health kits for UNCOR.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on February 20. There were 11 members present and 2 guests. Trish Kline gave a wonderful program about the recent UMC Mission Team's trip to Puerto Rico to help with repairs to the United Methodist Church that was severely damaged by the hurricane that hit Puerto Rico. She was assisted by Gwen Hamrick who also went on the trip. Gwen continued our program by sharing information about the upcoming Candle Burning Ceremony which will take place on March 24.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Ann McGee and her husband, Jack.
Ellie Gillen & Betty Nicholls
(*Clark Heritage Circle*)

Continued prayers are requested for our members who are unable to attend because of medical concerns.
(*Jean Craig Circle*)

IN SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to Ellie Gillen and her family on the death of her son-in-law, Charles Red.
(*Clark Heritage Circle*)

Sympathy is extended to the family of Barbara Moore who passed away recently.
(*Williamsburg Landing Circle*)

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

March 24-UMW Candle Burning Service
10:00 am in Fellowship Hall

March 26-Board Meeting
7:00 pm in Room 309

April 7- York River District Unit Presidents and Executive Committee Meeting

April 23- Board Meeting
7:00 pm in Room 309

April 29- WUMW Sunday