



# UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

March 2019

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is nearly here. It seems not that long ago that the new year began, and we faced weeks of winter weather. Daffodils and crocuses are already in bloom. We had our annual Candle Burning ceremony on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks to those of you who attended. It is a meaningful way to remember and honor others. Upcoming events include the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of UMW on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and our UMW Sunday on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Some of you are participating in the service on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Join us for birthday cake between services and after the 11:00 service on that day. The following Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> we are sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive here at the church from 9 - 2. Please donate if you are able. Volunteers are needed throughout the day. Volunteers may be working between the hours of 8 and 3. More information will be coming on this.

Mary Jo Bennett asked that include the following information about Latisha's House. Latisha's House will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019.

Fifty women have graduated from the program, 90% of those women received their GED and pursued vocational education or college paid in full by Latisha's House Foundation.

Our UMW Circles contributed \$470 in gift cards to the ladies at Latisha's for Christmas.

See more information about Latisha's House and Human Trafficking in Virginia on our UMW Bulletin Board. Human Trafficking Hotline Number: 1-888-273-7888

## SOCIAL ACTION

As the 2019 session of the Virginia General Assembly draws to a close, we can see progress in the matters of concern to United Methodist Women as well as some setbacks. Next month's report will document what was accomplished this year. But while we are focused on current and upcoming pressing problems, we are reminded that issues we have focused on over the years are still with us. We acknowledge the continuing problem of human trafficking, for example. January was human trafficking month, and we are called to remember that the State of Virginia is the 6<sup>th</sup> worst state in the country in statistics relating to the frequency of human trafficking events, and that statistics for the Hampton Roads area identify this as among the three worst parts of the state. Members of the United Methodist Women and of the Williamsburg

United Methodist Church at large have been supporters of Latisha's House, which has provided assistance and services to victims of human trafficking in the Williamsburg area for five years. There is much we can do in our own community to help people in need.

## WORLD THANK OFFERING

Linda Upshaw has prepared information on World Thank offering so we can be saving all year long.

### What is it?

Since 1881 members of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations have had the opportunity to contribute to an offering in response to God's grace. Some women drop a coin in a box daily as an expression of thankfulness. Others add coins and dollars in celebration of special occasions in their lives. The World Thank Offering is one of the five channels of Mission Giving of United Methodist Woman. The World Thank Offering supports national and international programs working with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.

### When do I turn this offering into UMW?

By November 26, 2019

### I need some ideas do you have any?

YES I DO...and I will make this into a fun monthly activity. Having missed January and February let me suggest:

January count the windows in your home \$0.05 a window?? \$0.10 ?? You have too many windows?? then you decide.

February...count your doorknobs, you decide the amount

March...now this is a good one...how many pairs of shoes??? A nickel a pair?? OH MY!!!

Have fun... a suggestion will come each month under the heading **WORLD THANK OFFERING**. Yes, I will be filling my jar also.

## CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. There were 11 present and 1 guest. Carol Nelson led with an inspiring devotion regarding "Cupcakes" and Christian Women. It was yummy, also, as we all had cupcakes to partake in as she read her devotion. Connie Magruder introduced our speaker, Tom Redmond, who is the new Director of Communications for WUMC. He explained what

his position entailed within the life of the church. Linda Graham told what was presented at the last UMW Executive Meeting.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on Tuesday, March 5 with 18 members and 1 guest in attendance. The program for the day consisted on a Serviced Project wrapping Lenten Shoe Box gifts for Shepard's Fold. The Circle made a \$50 Gift in Memory in honor of Jane Sydney Meloy, a former member of Clarke Heritage Circle. We welcomed Carolyn Munro back into our Circle.

The **Friendship Circle** met on Tuesday, February 12. There were 10 members, 1 guest and 1 new member in attendance. Our meeting time was spent packing vitamins and pain medications for the Honduras Mission Team. We packed 15,000 children's vitamins, 10,00 adult vitamins, 4000 Acetaminophen plus other medications.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on February 5, 2019. The Circle meeting began with Prayer and the UMW Purpose. Missionaries with birthdays on Feb. 5 were Betty Tshala serving in Zambia, Africa and Satomi McCurley serving in Japan. The program was: '*On Being A Gifted Person*' and '*The Gift of Friendship*'. Great conversation was shared, regarding even small gifts people have that has wonderful consequences in the lives of other people. We agreed that what we may call small gifts, can change lives. Ladies present were Mary Brett, Sally Davis, Frances Knight, Dee Farmer and Kathleen Stephens.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on Monday, February 4 in the Church Den. We had 9 members in attendance. Our program was given by Helen-Casey-Rutland. Helen introduced us to a new organization entitled Just Neighbors. The mission of Just Neighbors is to provide immigration legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees in Virginia, especially those who are most vulnerable. This group also seeks to foster enriching experiences that enhance awareness and mutual understanding among their clients, volunteers, staff and community. We had lots of questions and answers for Helen and we thank her for telling us about this mission.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met February 12th and enjoyed an informative and interesting program by Bill Jones regarding the Wesley Sites they visited in England last May. John Wesley and his family came to life as we enjoyed seeing the various churches where John Wesley served and places where he and his family lived. Circle members generously donated many OTC medications for the Honduras Mission Trip

which is much appreciated. We had 24 members in attendance and 3 guests. Our newest members are Beatrice Dennis, Cindy Crossan and Jeannie Niebel.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met February 7th, with 14 members and 2 guests present. Our speaker was Nancy Egloff from Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. She gave a very interesting and enjoyable presentation about the new exhibit at Jamestown Settlement. The Exhibit is called, "TENACITY" Women in Jamestown and Early Virginia. The exhibit shows little known personal stories of real women in the early Virginia colony, their tenacious spirit and legacy in our history. The exhibit has documents dating back to 1622 on loan from The National Archives of the United Kingdom and other historical items. They have special programs honoring 400 Years of Historical Events in Virginia. The exhibit will be there until January 5, 2020.

Our circle continues to bring items for FISH and Avalon, also there is a new container in the closet in the atrium for donations to Avalon.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on Tuesday, February 19. There were 5 members and 1 guest present. Our guest, Karen McPherson was the speaker. Karen told us about her participation in United Methodist Day at the General Assembly where her group met with Senator Tommy Norment and Delegate Brenda Pogge. Karen also talked about the Virginia Interfaith Center and the work to get legislatures to consider a bill to protect individuals in jobs where they are not paid even minimum wages. Funds were collected for Avalon and Candle Burning.

#### PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Fran McKnight of Clarke Heritage Circle  
Nancy Donnelly's husband Terry

#### IN SYMPATHY

Jerry Harrison, husband of Ann Harrison of  
Friendship Circle  
Brother of Jean Patterson

#### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**March 2** Candle Burning 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

**March 9** York River District Unit Presidents Meeting

**March 23** Happy Birthday UMW!

**March 24** UMW Sunday

**March 25** UMW Executive Board 7:00 pm Room 309

**March 30** UMW Sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall 9 -2