



# UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

April 2017

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Janet Henke*

I hope that by the time you read this, many of you joined Gwen Hamrick, Leah Griffith from the Wesley Foundation and other United Methodist Women for the memorable Candle Burning on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The program was meaningful and the tea breads were delicious. If you were unable to attend, I hope that you will plan for one of the future General Meetings.

April 30<sup>th</sup> is UMW Sunday at Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Consider being part of the worship services that honor the work of our fine organization. Connie Bland, our Vice President, will be asking for volunteers at April Circle meetings.

On Saturday, March 11, I attended the York River District United Methodist Women Executive Committee Meeting for Unit Presidents. It is always good to attend these meetings and to enjoy the fellowship of other United Methodist Women.

One item of discussion was individual member registration. It is a very easy process and takes only a few minutes. The following information will help you register.

Website: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/myumw](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/myumw).

- Enter the zip code **23185**. Go to the far right side and click on **Select**.
- For the **Unit Type**, choose **Local**. All other information in that section will automatically be filled in.
- Scroll down and enter your own information under **Membership Information**. As you finish, you will have the opportunity to print a temporary membership card.

Good luck! I will review the directions for this with Circle Chairs at our upcoming meeting so they can help answer questions.

If you haven't already turned in your 2017 Pledge to Missions to your Circle treasurer, please consider doing so. For 2017, the suggested contribution is \$48 per member. Remember, your contribution supports our obligations to the

district and to things we support like our youth mission trips, our reading program and recognition awards. Detailed information on this year's budget can be found in the 2017 membership book on pages 5 and 6.

## SOCIAL ACTION

*Karen McPherson*

Actions this month focused on the activities of the *Virginia Interfaith Council on Public Policy*.

March 7: I attended a *VICPP* luncheon meeting at Corey's Country Cooking. More than 30 people were in attendance. The focus was to gain a consensus on moving forward to create a regional chapter of *VICPP* in the Williamsburg area in order to focus the group's efforts on local and regional needs. A Planning Committee was formed to move this process forward.

March 13: As a member of the Planning Committee, I attended a meeting at the WUMC. Eight interested *VICPP* members attended. The group discussed issues of common concern and identified several ideas for continuing focus. These were: interfaith initiatives, including a Seder in conjunction with Temple Beth-El, attention to criminal justice issues, and efforts at grassroots education and organization.

March 27: The Planning Committee met again at WUMC with eight people in attendance. We adopted a chapter name, *James River District of VICPP*, and charged two members with gathering information from other chapters to get some direction about our possible organization and actions. In addition, we reviewed a proposed information sheet to distribute to area voters to raise awareness of upcoming Virginia State elections.

This group will meet again on April 10 at WUMC to move forward toward creating the James River District charter, including identifying other local groups that can serve as allies in this effort.

## CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met March 14. There were 9 members present and 4 guests. For our program, Dr. Vince Sutlive gave a very interesting program on his and his wife's service as missionaries for 16 years in Sarawak. Their message was "God Loves You and So

Do We.” Dr. Sutlive also told us of the books he has written and of the dictionary that he wrote for the people of Sarawak, of his starting a seminary with 20 students and of baptizing over 400 people. We welcomed Carol Nelson back to our circle after recovering from her heart surgery. Our circle continues to support different projects in the community and for our sick.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on March 7 and there were 17 members and 1 guest present. Our program was presented by Kay Stefancic who is a docent at Colonial Williamsburg where she demonstrates the art of rug hooking at the St. George Tucker House. Kay showed various samples of her work and gave a demonstration on rug hooking techniques. After the meeting, the Circle had a brown bag lunch and made cash donations to our discretionary fund. We continue to volunteer at FISH and the nursing homes.

The **Friendship Circle** met on March 13. There were 11 members present and 3 guests. Our speaker was Kim Barbarji from the Grace Haven Family Shelter. She shared information about the upcoming Family Shelter and the hopes of helping families “get on their feet.” The program is trying to break the cycle of poverty by working with one family at a time. We heard some of the poems of Ellie Gillen and had a brief report on the Honduras mission. We discussed books remaining from the 2015 bazaar and plans for the 2017 bazaar. We also made plans for future programs.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on March 6 in the Activities Room at Brookdale. There were 6 members and 2 leaders in attendance. Our speaker was Gwen Hamrick. She presented a 20 minute program sharing facts and information about the upcoming Candle Burning Ceremony. Members shared what they knew or remembered from attending ceremonies in the past years. Gwen shared some facts and figures about attendance, names of people who were honored or remembered and the funds that were donated. Members shared names of loved ones that had been or could be remembered and honored at this year’s ceremony.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met March 6 and there were 12 members attending. For the program, Carolyn Buck discussed her recent educational trip to Cuba. We are concerned for Mary Spence and Nancy Hess who were unable to attend due to illness. We had a small farewell party for Judy Gossett who is moving to Cincinnati. This was her last meeting with the Circle

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met March 14 with 21 members and two guests in attendance. Peggy Hook and Mary Jo Bennett spoke on their recent trip to

Honduras with the Carolina-Honduras Health Foundation. The Circle also included a Mission Focus as part of their program. Our activities are attending the UMW Candle Burning in March and to provide an Easter Dinner for the Wesley Foundation on April 16<sup>th</sup>. We also donated medicines for the Honduras mission trip in February.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met on March 1. There were 12 members and 1 guest present. Our program speaker was Peggy Hook who brought us up to date on the activities of the Carolina Honduras Health Mission and shared her passion for the good work they are doing in the remote areas of Honduras. We saw pictures of the Center and of the people they serve. We continue to collect food, socks, and underwear for FISH. We also brought paper goods and other needed items for the new WUMC Soup Kitchen.

### **PRAYERS & CONCERNS**

We are keeping Betty Garrington, Mary Spence, Nancy Ward, and Ruth Anderton in our prayers as they recover from illness (*Carol Scott Circle*).

Prayers are requested for Norma Hall who is now in Hospice Care at Brookdale, and for Mary Brett-Wright and Joan Trickett, who are also both at Brookdale (*Jean Craig Circle*).

### **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

**April 28 & 29**-VA Conference Spiritual Life Retreat

**April 30**-UMW Sunday

**May 10 & 13**-Hands-On Mission Days

**May 22**-WUMW Board Meeting