



# UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

April 2018

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Janet Henke*

Last month I wrote that spring was in the air. And then look at the weather we have had for March. It looks like the Groundhog was right. Anyway, it is now officially spring.

Thanks to all of you who joined us for the Candle Burning program on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks especially to Gwen Hamrick for her planning and for the program on the mission trip to Puerto Rico. We will have the totals for this year's Candle Burning by the next issue.

United Methodist Sunday will be on April 29<sup>th</sup> this year. If you haven't already heard Lynn Litchfield's presentation you are in for a real thought provoking experience. Those of you who have heard her speak know how powerful her message is.

Early May will bring Hands on Mission days. Look for Connie Bland to visit your Circles to share the opportunities for service on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. It would be wonderful if we could get more ladies involved in the activities on either of these days. Mark one or both days on your calendars!

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*

## SOCIAL ACTION

*Karen McPherson*

Social Action has been focused on working with the Virginia General Assembly to get Medicaid expansion funded under the state budget. When the

General Assembly adjourned on March 9, there was no budget because the House of Delegates and Senate could not agree on this issue. Through the James River Chapter of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, we have been working on getting signatures on petitions directed to our local representative, State Senator Thomas K. Norment, encouraging him to help break this budgetary deadlock and fund Medicaid expansion. We collected over 60 signatures from Williamsburg United Methodist Church members during this effort. In addition, on March 21 we participated in a Town Hall at the Stryker Building in the city, focused on this issue. Two members of the General Assembly who supported Medicaid expansion, Republican Glenn Davis from Virginia Beach and Democrat Mike Mullin from Williamsburg, spoke at this town hall, along with Jill Hankin from the Virginia Poverty Law Center and the executive director of the Angels of Mercy clinic, Jeff Black. This meeting was attended by 50 members of the community who wanted to hear about this important issue.

## CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on March 13. There were 14 members and 1 guest present. Mark Hennaman, Director of Habitat for Humanity ReStore Marketing and Community Relations gave a very interesting and inspiring program. He explained the wonderful work of Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore. Seventeen homes will be built on the Peninsula this year. Each family must commit to giving 400 hours in the building of their home. The hours can be given in different ways besides the actual building process. The mission is to see a world where everyone has a decent and affordable place to live. Mr. Hennaman also told us of the wonderful program for Veterans called "Homes for Heroes." The Williamsburg Restore is ranked #6 in the nation!

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on March 6 and we had 21 members present. Our speaker was Rev. Charles Swadley. He is a retired clergy member of the Virginia Conference. He served as Associate Pastor of WUMC from 1979-83. He and his wife Sue are actively involved in our church. He is currently involved in the *Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy*. This organization is the advocacy voice for faith communities in Virginia. Gwen Hamrick shared information about the *Candle Burning*

*Ceremony* taking place on March 24. Our meeting ended with our semi-annual "Brown Bag Lunch." Members donate the money that they would have spent going out to lunch to our discretionary funds which are donated to various missions at the end of the year. We collected cleaning supplies for Latisha's House and manicure supplies for the Envoy Nursing Home.

The **Friendship Circle** met on March 13 and there were 11 members present. Our circle member, Sue Williams, led the group in an investigation of mission efforts of the UMW. We used the Response Magazines to read about and to identify mission efforts around the world. The group had maps of the various areas of the world and they put stickers on the many places where the UMW is making a difference. We continue to collect school supplies and help with the sewing of the UMCOR school bags.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met in the Activities Room at Brookdale on March 6. There were 6 members present plus our leader. Gwen Hamrick was our program speaker. We are continuing with our study of the "Fruits of the Spirit" and this month our topic was Gentleness through the actions of Jesus. We shared personal stories of gentle memories and people in our lives.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on March 5 and there were 9 members present. Pastor Megan Roth Clayton shared her journey into the ministry and spoke about the churches she served before coming to our congregation. Gwen Hamrick joined us to encourage our members to take part in the upcoming Candle Burning Ceremony on March 24. We continue our project of school kits for UMCOR and expect to fill 100-150 bags at our April meeting.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on March 13. Our Circle members gathered to assist with Messy Church before beginning our meeting. We then heard from our sisters who had gone to Puerto Rico on the recent mission trip, as well as from Mary Jo Bennett who went on the mission trip to Honduras. We had 20 in attendance, including two guests.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met on March 7. Our speaker was Holley Walling. She gave a very enjoyable presentation about her mission trip, along with the other volunteers from our church, to Puerto Rico. We enjoyed seeing the pictures and hearing how much they enjoyed working in the Church and with the Puerto Rican people. Our Circle continues to bring socks, underwear and food items for FISH. We also bring items for UMCOR health kits and can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on March 20 and there were 6 members present and two guest, Connie Bland and Julie Stanton. Connie gave a talk about the new Church website. The website contains a wealth of information to keep everyone up to date about what is going on in our Church. For our mission work we are collecting food coupons for Grove Outreach and collecting money for Avalon.

### **PRAYERS & CONCERNS**

Prayers are requested for Linda Upshaw's son, Kyle, who recently left for a service tour in Iraq.

*(Jean Craig Circle)*

### **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

**April 7** - York River District Unit Presidents & Executive Committee Meeting

**April 23** - UMW Board Meeting in room 309

**April 29** - UMW Sunday

**May 9 & 11** - WUMW Hands on Mission Day  
8:00 AM to noon at various locations

**May 21** - WUMW Board Meeting 7:00pm  
in Room 309