



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

April 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring has finally arrived and with it a flurry of Umw activities. Thanks to all of you who contributed to Candle Burning with your time and with your donations. UMW Sunday was a huge success. It is not often that you get to have a birthday party for nearly 600 people. Special thanks to Connie Bland for her organization of the day and to Pastor Meghan for helping plan the service and arrange for Nancy Robinson to deliver the sermon. It is always a pleasure to have Nancy return to Williamsburg UMC.

As a service project, the UMW hosted a blood drive on March 30. Ladies helped on the day of the event and baked cookies in advance. It was slow going to recruit donors for this worthwhile event. Thanks again to Connie Bland and Pastor Meghan for their work on this project.

Looking ahead, please consider volunteering for one of the many Hands on Mission opportunities being coordinated by Jan Ivy. The dates are Wednesday, May 8 and Saturday, May 11.

SOCIAL ACTION

When the Virginia General Assembly adjourned the end of February, it was clear that this legislative session had not achieved much relating to the issues of importance to the United Methodist Women. Here are a few things that were accomplished in connection with the stated goals of the UMW:

Economic Justice: The legislators agreed to removed so-called “Jim Crow” language used to describe jobs that were exempted from the state minimum wage requirement. They also agreed to legislation requiring employers to provide pay stubs to all workers. In addition, legislators approved several bills strengthening the economic rights of tenants in the face of a pending eviction. However, the legislators failed to increase the minimum wage or to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Climate Justice: The legislators passed a bill requiring Dominion and other power companies to provide plans clean up the coal ash ponds that their activities create.

Criminal Justice: The felony threshold was raised from \$200 to \$500, putting Virginia more in line with other states. However, legislators did nothing to address the school-to-prison pipeline that is plaguing disadvantaged communities.

Maternal and Child Health: There was no significant legislation in this area.

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on March 12. There were 10 members present and no visitors. Mary Spence gave the program with the title “Running On Empty”. I reported on the candle burning program and we discussed the upcoming bazaar. We recognized missionaries who had birthdays that day. A card was signed and sent to Ken Ward before we closed.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on Tuesday, March 5. There were 20 women present it was conducted by Pat Cranford led the meeting in Barbara Stanley’s absence. Mera Hughes presented a program about lent. The group dismissed for lunch at Longhorn steakhouse. News was shared that Ann McGee our past president and beloved member has moved to DeLuth Georgia. We wish her well!

The **Friendship Circle** met on Tuesday, March 12 with 9 members and 2 guests in attendance. They welcomed a new member, Stacey Edwards. Ray Morgan presented an awesome program on the Ossuary of St. James. The ladies learned what an ossuary is, how this one was discovered, and the history of the controversy over authenticity and ownership.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on Tuesday, March 5 at Brookdale. Only a few ladies attended the meeting but that did not keep us from having a wonderful discussion about the lives of Jacob and Esau, which was our program for March. Great conversations were had about comparing our lives with these two historic Biblical humans. Especially important in their lives was the forgiveness by Esau for all the things that Jacob had done, which was illustrated by Esau when they met after Jacob crossed the river where Esau embraced him and kissed him on the cheek.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on Monday, March 4. Seven members attended the meeting. The group met at 9:30 in Respite Care to offer help in performing a small project. The ladies were able to prepare and organize some supplies for their art work.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on Tuesday, March 12 with 20 ladies in attendance. Gwen Hamrick shared a wonderful time line of the history of women in the Methodist Church- reminding us all about the struggles in the past. Connie Bland shared plans for upcoming UMW day March 24. She is still recruiting for several roles that day. Connie also shared about the Blood drive planned for March 30- still recruiting for help that day. Patty Benesh is organizing the Wesley Easter Dinner- she passed the sign-up sheet around. Then the group assembled 40 hygiene kits! and collected \$150 toward postage. Holley Walling closed the meeting with a thankful prayer.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met on Wednesday, March 6th at 10:00am. There were 15 members present. We would like to thank our speaker David Hindman. He gave a very interesting and entertaining slide and movie presentation on his and his children's walking of the Camino de Santiago trail (The Way of St James). He showed us the trail that they walked and the experiences they had, and some of the people they met on their way. Our circle brought canned meat, socks and underwear for FISH.

The **Williamsburg Landing** information will be included in the next Updates and Reflections.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

When you travel this summer, please remember the women at Avalon.

Please bring back any unopened toiletries and place them in the marked bin in the new collections closet. Both travel-size and larger containers, as well as make-up (all unopened) is a very welcome gift to the women at Avalon. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

March 30 UMW sponsored Blood Drive 9 – 2 Fellowship Hall

April 22 WUMW Board Meeting 7 Room 309

May 8 and May 11 Hands-on Mission Days