



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

May 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janet Henke

Spring is upon us. I hope the high levels of pollen aren't keeping you indoors. We certainly have had some beautiful days in the Williamsburg area.

April 30 was UMW Sunday at Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Connie Bland, our Vice President, did a tremendous job of planning the service with Reverend Jones and inviting volunteers to participate in the service. It is always special to share the good works of our UMW unit with the other members of the congregation.

On Saturday, April 22 I attended the Social Action Spring Event at Chestnut Memorial UMC in Newport News. The program presented by Lynn Litchfield was entitled "GraceInside, A Story of Hope." Lynn presented about her ministry inside Virginia's prisons.

I hope you have all signed up for one of the activities we assist with as part of Hands-On Mission days in May. Circle leaders will be checking with you at the May meeting. If you have not already signed up it is not too late. If you have questions about Hands-on Missions for this spring, contact Connie Bland.

In the last month's Updates and Reflections, I reported that the York River district and the national UMW have requested that all members register on-line. It is a very easy process and takes only a few minutes.

Go to unitedmethodistwomen.org/myumw

When you put in the zip code for our church, the church's name, our district, conference and jurisdiction come up automatically. Go to the far-right side and click on **Select**. Much of the information will be transferred to the form. You will be asked what type of unit we are. The answer is **Local**. Scroll down and enter your own information. As you finish, you will have the opportunity to print a temporary membership card. Good luck!

If you haven't already turned in your 2017 Pledge to Missions to your Circle's 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 & 6.

BAZAAR NEWS !

It is time to begin thinking about the biennial UMW Bazaar. Planning is already well underway for the event that will occur on **Saturday, November 4**. We are planning exciting booths, a luncheon, and a silent auction for our church family and for our neighbors. We are asking for your help and support as we collect items for our tables.

Collection dates are:

June 16	September 22
July 15	October 6
August 31	October 21
September 8	

We will not be accepting linens, computers and computer equipment, old VHS tapes, electronic equipment, encyclopedias, or luggage. We will not be able to accept large furniture for this fall's bazaar.

Stay tuned for more information! If you have questions contact Janet Henke or Linda Upshaw.

SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action focused again this month on working with the Virginia Interfaith Council on Public Policy to establish a formal regional chapter of VICPP. After meeting twice (in our church facilities), a small working group has determined that the local chapter will be called the James River Chapter of VICPP, and has discussed the special needs and opportunities for Social Action that exist in our community. Within the next couple of weeks the bylaws and leadership structure of this new group will be decided, and then the entire local membership of VICPP will meet to ratify the decisions of the working group. Being an official VICPP chapter will help focus and coordinate local efforts on Social Justice and will facilitate communication with the central VICPP office as we prepare for upcoming statewide elections in Virginia.

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on April 11. There were 6 members and 1 guest present. Bud Voorhess, a past president of FISH, presented a very interesting program on the history of FISH and the different types of work it does in our community. FISH has an all-

volunteer staff. They provide food, clothing, and small house wares to the less fortunate and needy citizens of Williamsburg, James City County and the Bruton District in York County. We continue to support each other as members and different projects in the community.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met April 4 and there were 13 members and one guest in attendance. Our program was “Bazaar Buzz” where we made plans for our holiday booth at the UMW Bazaar in November. We spent the rest of the meeting doing our “work project” of removing scuff marks from the walls of the sanctuary and narthex.

The **Friendship Circle** met on April 10 with 8 members and 6 guests in attendance. Our speakers were Mary Joe Bennett and Peggy Hook who shared stories of their participation in a mission trip to Honduras in March. They shared stories of “lives changed” as a result of the work that is being done by the Carolina Honduras Health Foundation. Our *Response* magazine report (April 2017) was “*Leaving Home to Survive*” about a Philippine woman trying to escape the poverty of her homeland.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met April 4 in the Activities Room at Brookdale. There were 2 members and 2 leaders present. Linda Upshaw & Gwen Hamrick used a 28 minute You Tube video to share the 14 Stations of the Cross, a presentation of the 14 steps that followed Jesus from his sentencing by Pilate to his death, carrying His cross to the final place of the crucifixion, to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. We donated \$5.00 to the UMW missions fund in memory of Rae Tabb, a former circle member.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. There were 14 members in attendance, along with 1 guest. The program was focused on assembling school kits for Annual Conference. During this month the Sisters in Faith Circle participated in the Candle Burning ceremony on March 25, provided Easter dinner for the Wesley Foundation on April 16, and participated in UMW Sunday on April 30. We plan to be part of Hands-on-Mission days in May.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met March 5. There were 13 members and 3 guests present. For our program, Anthony Williams spoke about his work with the WUMC children and youth choirs and the youth bell choir. He also talked about the work he is doing with the Early Childhood Music School. We continue to collect food and children’s socks and underwear for FISH.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Prayers are requested for Norma Hall who is in hospice care (*Jean Craig*).

Please pray for Carolyn Spencer and Brenda Feree, both recovering from knee replacement surgery (*Clark Heritage*).

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May 10 & 13-Hands-On Mission Days

May 22-WUMW Board Meeting