



# UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

May 2018

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Janet Henke*

What a wonderful UMW Sunday, April 29. Great presentation (sermon) by Lynn Litchfield! Wasn't it great to see so many women representing UMW taking roles for all parts of the worship service. Thanks to Vice President Connie Bland for her leadership on this event. What a powerful group of women we are!

No time to rest on our laurels from UMW Sunday because our next project Hands-on Mission Days are upon us. I hope as you read this you have already signed up to volunteer at one of the mission opportunities on either Wednesday, May 9 or Saturday, May 12. Once again Connie Bland took the leadership role by making arrangements for volunteer opportunities and in finding volunteers to assist at all of the sites.

Upcoming events for the York River District and the Virginia Conference include: The District Spring Event May 5 at Tabernacle UMC in Poquoson; UMW Day at Ferrum College on June 2; Virginia Conference Breakfast June 16 at the Hampton Convention Center and the Mission Encounter July 27-29 at Smith Mountain Lake.

If any of you order merchandise through Amazon there is an opportunity to contribute to a favorite charity through an app called Amazon Smiles. A portion from each sale is contributed to a charity you choose. Go to Amazon Smiles for more information.

A hardworking Mission Chair for Williamsburg United Methodist Church and especially for our UMW is moving. Please take time to thank Barbara Hamson for the work she has done with UMCOR. She will be missed.

Look for more information about Circle meetings in The Messenger, Updates and Reflections

## SOCIAL ACTION

*Karen McPherson*

Social Action continues to focus on Medicaid expansion in Virginia. On April 9, about 40 people gathered outside of the office of Sen. Thomas K. Norment to express our support for this budget initiative. In addition to several members of Williamsburg United Methodist Church, five local

clergy took part in this event. Charles Swadley, a retired Methodist minister and member of our church, has participated in a daily vigil that has now gone on 11-weeks outside of Senator Norment's office. As a result of this kind of pressure being exerted not only in Williamsburg but across the state, some legislators who have opposed Medicaid expansion in the past are now supporting this policy change. We hope that when the budget is finalized, it will include funding for the health care of hundreds of thousands of Virginians who are currently uninsured.

## THANK YOU

*Gwen Hamrick*

Thank you to all who contributed and attended our annual Candle Burning Ceremony in March. It was a lovely gathering for worship and friendship, as well as remembering and honoring friends and family. Because of the generous donations by all, this year's final total exceeded \$2,200. I am thankful to all who gave of their time and their offerings for this event. From within our hearts, we are called to give to others in Christian love.

## CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met April 10 and there were 16 members and 2 guests present. Meghan Roth Clayton, our Associate Pastor, spoke to our circle about how God's grace has been moving in her life. She shared how God is a God of surprises. Pastor Clayton's sharing her story and her family's journey was so inspirational. She encouraged all of us to remember that her door is always open. We all feel so blessed that she is now part of our church family and community.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on April 3 and there were 18 members and two guests present, Nancy Cogswell and our speaker Elizabeth Ameling, founder and Executive Director of Latisha's House. She spoke to us about rescuing and restoring the victims of sex trafficking and prostitution by providing women a new beginning in a safe environment. The women receive counseling, job training, access to education and unconditional support to turn their lives around. We continue to bring cleaning supplies that are donated to Latisha's House.

The **Friendship Circle** met on April 10. There were 11 members and 2 guests in attendance. Dick Bennett

was our speaker and he shared stories and highlights of the Puerto Rico Mission trip in February. He told of their construction and destruction efforts, of their accommodations and their abundant food. He also shared details of their daily routine, of their friendly interpreter and of their interaction with the congregations of the church where they stayed and the church where they worked. Connie Bland shared information about the upcoming UMW Sunday on April 29 and the Hands On Mission Day scheduled for May 9 & 12. Our Response Moment was shared by Joyce Hedgepeth.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on Monday, April 9 with 14 members and one guest in attendance, Connie Bland. Connie told us of two upcoming events - WUMW Sunday on April 30 and Hands On Mission Days May 9 and 12. A sign-up-sheet was sent around for our members to select when they could participate. After our business meeting we filled approximately 200-250 school bags with supplies - these will be sent to Conference in June. We had a "coffee and cake" time to say good-bye to our long-time friend and Circle member, Dawn Gates. She will be moving to Maryland to be closer to family. We will certainly miss her

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on April 3. We had 4 members present. Our program was titled "Denial: I DO NOT KNOW THE MAN." We talked about understanding the "why" of Peter's denial when he was asked if he knew Jesus (Matthew 26:69-74). We also talked about Faithfulness-one of the Fruits of the Spirits and shared memories of our own Easter traditions. We continue to pray for our members, those present and those who are unable to attend because of health reasons.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** enjoyed a program of *Living Your Life's Purpose*, given by Rev. Jeanne Forrest, on Tuesday, April 10. Together with partners, we began to discern our greatest strengths and how we could apply them in our daily lives to live out our life purpose. Fourteen members were in attendance in addition to Rev. Jeanne. We welcomed two new members to our group, Sharon Short and Linda Logerwell.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met on April 4. There were 15 members present and 2 guests. Our speaker was Max Blalock from the Wesley Foundation. He spoke to us about the strategic plan they have developed, "Embracing God's Radical Hospitality for All," and how God intends for us to be a community that embodies love, reconciliation and justice. Thus, they welcome people of all races, nationalities, sexual orientation, gender identities, faith and theological identities. All students are welcome to relax and enjoy a community of faith. Our circle supports FISH by

bring food items, socks and underwear. We also collect can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on April 17 and there were 6 members present. We received a Thank You note thanking us for a \$25 donation to the Methodist Church in Surry in memory of Barbara Moore. We spent the rest of the meeting clipping coupons for the Grove Community Center as part of the Hands On Missions Days.

### **PRAYERS & CONCERNS**

Ellie Gillen who fell and is currently  
at Patriot's Colony.  
(Clark Heritage)

### **PLEA FOR HELP FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR**

Jean Craig circle is presently looking for 2 new co-chairs to lead this long time circle. The need starts for their September meeting (September 4th) Jean Craig meets the first Tuesday of every month (excluding July and August) @ 1:30 in the Activity room at Brookdale, formally Chambrel. The present co-chairs Linda Upshaw and Gwen Hamrick have the job description and materials to continue this circle which helps meet the spiritual needs of their members.

### **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

#### **May 5**

The District Spring Event at Tabernacle UMC  
in Poquoson

#### **May 9 & 12**

WUMW Hands on Mission Day  
8:00 AM to noon at various locations

#### **May 21**

WUMW Board Meeting 7:00pm in Room 309

#### **June 2**

UMW Day at Ferrum College

#### **June 16**

Virginia Conference Breakfast at the  
Hampton Convention Center

#### **July 27-29**

Mission Encounter at Smith Mountain Lake.