



# UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

May 2019

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

UMW Sunday was a great success. We need to thank Connie Bland for her hard work in organizing the event. Not only did we have a great Sunday program on March 24, but the following Saturday we had a good turnout for the Red Cross Blood Drive. Thirty-four units of blood were collected exceeding our goal of 30. Thanks to Connie for her work in setting this up and to all the ladies who gave of their time to support the Red Cross that day. Special thanks to Suzanna Chapman, Connie Bland and Holly Walling for the great Grandma cookies.

I received a letter from the Wesley Foundation and am including it for all of you to read. Our support of this group is important.

Dear United Methodist Women:

As a ministry of the York River District, we partner with local churches and church groups for the necessary support to carry out our mission. We are very thankful for this support and would like to provide a brief report on our activities.

We started the semester with a planning retreat of our new 2019 Student Leadership Team. They are a talented and amazing group of student ministers! Each new year brings a new focus, new ideas, and energy to continue and transform our ministry. This semester's theme is "Faith, Love and Action." This has been the focus of our Large Group worship and discussions, as well as our Bible Study and book discussion group. We continue to lead the way on campus with interfaith cooperation and events, outreach to international students, participating in social justice initiatives and working as partners in Respite Care, Community Kitchens, and Shalom Farms. This semester we opened the Campus Food Pantry. This confidential program is open every Wednesday and Thursday that school is in session. It aims to provide students who are food insecure, and their dependent family members, access to nonperishable food and household products. It is the first of its kind at William & Mary, and it is being enthusiastically supported throughout the campus.

The students always take seriously the reality that the love and grace of God is always meant to be shared!

Thus, the more folks that we can invite to participate with us and the greater the variety of ways that we can offer folks to live out their faith, the better for all of us. While our students "pay as they go" for many activities, there are vibrant parts of our ministry that aren't possible without support from our local churches and United Methodist Men and Women.

We thank you for your continuing support of our outreach and mission programs through your prayers, service, and donations. If you would like to support our ministry with a monetary donation, please click on [this link](#), or make your check payable to the Wesley Foundation and mail to Wesley Foundation, 526 Jamestown Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185. Thank you for your continued support.

Grace and peace,  
Max Blalock, Campus Minister  
Sarah Grace Frary, President, Student Leadership Team

## WORLD THANK OFFERING

Linda Upshaw has prepared information on World Thank offering so we can be saving all year long.

World Thank Offering

April

Hope you all had fun last month filling your World Thank container (be it a box or jar). April is here and we are all hoping so is SPRING. So, here is April's suggestion: Let's put away our winter coats BUT before you do this count them. Just how many coats do you have in your closet maybe count jackets also. How about \$.25 a coat \$.10 for every jacket.

May

YES Spring has sprung ...now any indoor plants you may have ?? count them how about \$.25 each.... enjoy the beauty springs brings to all of us (excluding the pollen)

## CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on Tuesday, April 9 in the Church Den. There were seven members present and two guests. Carolyn Yowell, Executive Director of

Respite Care presented an informational and interesting program. Jan Ivy shared information about the Hands-on mission days and the many opportunities and needs for volunteers. Missionaries from the UMW Prayer Calendar were remembered. Before adjourning, members were reminded that our June meeting will be lunch at Waypoint Restaurant.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on Tuesday, April 2nd in the den. Our speaker was David Hindman, speaking on his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. We saw photos of his walkway from the two trips that he has made. He discussed his reasons for making the pilgrimage, and how it had changed his life. There were 16 members present, and one visitor, Sue Eyster from upper New York State. Our circle will be sorting and sizing lingerie for FISH on April 17th. We collected cleaning supplies for Latisha's House.

The **Friendship Circle** met on Tuesday, April 9. There were 9 members and 2 guests present. Our speaker was Corey Trench from the National Alliance of Mental Illness. Mr. Trench shared the history of NAMI, how they serve the community, and how they work locally to create awareness of serious mental illness. Those present shared a social time of Duck donuts and coffee.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met April 2 at Brookdale Retirement Center with two Circle members present. Special guest, UMW member Jan Ivy, met with us and talked with the ladies about how important our Missionaries are. Jan passed out the names and addresses, asking them to write to one or more Missionaries, telling them how much they are appreciated and how important they are to be called by God to serve. We were blessed by Jan for her staying for the entire session. A short presentation was also given on 'Learning to Listen to God', how important it is to read the Bible and pray every day. The meeting was closed with prayer and singing. Following the meeting, those in attendance were presented with a rose and cookies to enjoy.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met in the Church Den on Monday, April 1 with 8 members present. We were delighted to have our Director of Music, Lou-Anne Smith with us. She gave us some background on her personal life and her music education along with a lovely slide presentation. She lives in Williamsburg and is very happy here at WUMC.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on Tuesday, April 9 with 22 members in attendance; Jan Ivy dropped in to tell us about Hands on Mission Days and pass around a sign-up sheet. We reviewed our plan for Easter Dinner at Wesley and listened to an inspiring summary of the recent trip to Honduras (medical mission), from

Mary Jo Bennett. She also extended her thanks to the circle members for their generous OTC medication contributions for the trip. Connie Bland presented to share with us what the WUMC Communications Team has done and will be doing, and gave a great tutorial on the Church website.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met April 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were 15 members present. Jeffery Black the Executive Director of Angels of Mercy was our speaker. We enjoyed hearing how Angels of Mercy got its start and about the good work they are doing today to help people without insurance. Our circle brought canned meat items for FISH and can tabs for Ronald McDonald House.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on Tuesday, April 16 with three members in attendance. Bonnie Knizatko was substitute Circle Leader for Ruth Simpson who was absent due to recent surgery. A get-well card for Ruth was signed and sent to her. After a brief business meeting, the ladies participated in their early Hands on Mission Days activity of preparing yarn balls for the Jamestown Foundation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of our Circle Golden Friend, Ashley Rice, who passed away recently. We are keeping in our prayers Ruth Simpson for a full and speedy recovery and the other Circle members who were unable to attend the meeting.

## PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Ruth Simpson, Susanna Wesley and Williamsburg Landing

Terry Donnelly. Husband of Nancy Donnelly

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**May 8 and 11** Hands-on Mission Days

**May 20** UMW Executive Board 7:00 pm

## BAZAAR COLLECTION DATES

July 26 11:00 – 1:00 Friday

August 23 11:00 – 1:00 Friday

September 6 11:00 – 1:00 Friday

September 21 11:00 – 1:00 Saturday

October 4 11:00 – 1:00 Friday

October 19 11:00 -1:00 Saturday