



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

June 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janet Henke

A great big thank you to UMW Vice President Connie Bland for all her hard work on both UMW Sunday and Hands on Mission Days. The way this year's calendar worked, Connie planned both events within a two and a half week period. The UMW Sunday on April 30 was a wonderful service led by many UMW members. Other ladies from the church community have expressed interest in joining one of the Circles and helping with some of our projects. Hands on Mission Days, May 10 and May 13 were very successful. Forty-six UMW ladies volunteered for 8 different local non-profits. Did you see the picture of some of our ladies helping at Habitat for Humanity ReStore on Wednesday May 10? The picture was in the Saturday, May 13 *Virginia Gazette*. These events could not have been as successful without Connie's dedication and wonderful organizational skills.

The first collection for next fall's Bazaar will be held on Friday, June 16 from 1:00-4:00 pm. Items to be donated are being brought to Room 305. We need ladies from the Circles to assist with the collection and to sort the items as they arrive. A little work now will make the job so much easier as we get closer to the Bazaar. Let your Circle chair know if you can help us on that date. The other two summer collection dates are Saturday, July 15 from 10 am to 2 pm and Thursday, August 31 from 1:00-4:00 pm. Please consider helping us in Room 305 on one of those days.

In recent months' Updates and Reflections, I reported that the York River district and the national UMW has 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 treasurer, please consider doing so. For 2017, the suggested contribution is \$48

per member. Remember, your contribution supports our obligations to the district and the 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 and 6.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

TOILETRIES AND MORE FOR AVALON

As part of Hands on Mission day, a group of ladies met at the church to sort toiletries into gift bags for women needing Avalon's services. When the ladies finished, the two organizers thanked the UMW ladies and spoke about their needs. Avalon needs both travel size and larger regular sized bottles of shampoo and other items. The travel size works well for the ladies who are there for only a short time, but the full-size containers are for those who stay at Avalon for longer periods. In addition to the regular toiletries, make-up is a very welcome gift for the ladies. It gives the women a little boost in a very stressful situation.

Keep the women at Avalon in mind as you take your summer trips and do your shopping. Items should be brought to the church and marked for Avalon. Place them in the first closet at the church. If you have questions, please call 259-9833

SOCIAL ACTION

Karen McPherson

I have continued to work with the Virginia Interfaith Council on Public Policy to establish the James River Chapter, which will be a functional part of the Council's statewide effort to provide a "moral imperative" for political and social action. To this end we have done several things in the past month:

1. Defined that our purpose is to identify and act on the core values arising from faith communities by elevating the dignity, worth, and empowerment of all people.
2. Ask WUMC (among other churches) to be a Faith Advocacy Partner in this endeavor.
3. Set June 19 as the date for the first general meeting of the James River Chapter of VICPP. The purpose of the meeting will be to identify the next steps to take to work across all local faith communities and to set specific goals in

areas such as health care, minimum wage, and criminal justice reform.

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met on May 9 in the den. There were 11 members and 2 guests in attendance. Kris Magnusson of Grace Haven Family Shelter and Carl Gerhold of the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission told us of their wonderful programs at work in our community. Their mission is driven by their common belief in the dignity of the individual and they seek to offer those things required for human decency, starting with food, shelter, clothing, employment, health care and education. Our June 13 meeting will be a luncheon at Waypoint Restaurant at 12:30. Our circle continues to support each other and different projects in our community.

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on May 2. There were 18 members present. Elaine Reubush gave a program entitled "Seeing God Through the Lens of a Camera." The purpose of the program was to make us aware of the importance of keeping our eyes open to the wonders of the natural world and using this as a way to be closer to God.

The **Friendship Circle** met May 8. There were 6 members present and 13 guests from the Olive Casey Circle. Our speaker was Barbara Mason who spoke to us about the Agape Christian Children's Center on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. This program ministers to children through a preschool for 3 & 4 year olds that strives to bring the love of Jesus Christ to these needy students and to help prepare them for school. The Circle made a \$50 donation from our discretionary funds to help support this important program.

The **Jean Craig Circle** had 3 members present at their May meeting. Mary Jo Bennett was the program leader and she spoke on plants. Each member prepared a small planter for nurturing and growing to take with them back to their living space.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met with the Friendship Circle for our May meeting. Barbara Mason, with Agape Christian Children's Community Center presented a wonderful and touching program for the group.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on May 9 with 14 members and 2 guests in attendance. Our speaker was from the Agape Christian Children's Center in Horntown, VA on the Eastern Shore. Our activities included participating in the UMW Sunday in April, providing Easter dinner for the Wesley Foundation, and participating in Hands-on Mission days. We also provided dinner to the youth group on Mother's Day.

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met May 3 and there were 13 members attending. Our program was

presented by Carolyn Munro who spoke about the Symbols of Christianity in Art. She also shared her talent in making beautiful lace. We continue to collect food, socks and underwear for FISH.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** had 6 members present for their May meeting. Bonnie Knizatko was our speaker and she presented a program on Memorial Day. Members were asked to share their memories of past Memorial Days. We collected money for the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky and for postage for UMCOR kits. If you are interested in finding out more about the Red Bird Mission, there is an interesting article about their history on their website at rbmission.org The June Meeting will be lunch at the Carrot Tree.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Dawn Gates, Sylvia Montroy and others who were unable to attend our May meeting (*Olive Casey Circle*).

IN SYMPATHY

Louise Lippert on the death of her husband Ron.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Dates for the November Bazaar Collections

June 16 1:00 – 4:00 pm

July 15 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

August 31 1:00 – 4:00 pm

All donations should be taken to
Room 305