



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

June 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janet Henke

Summer is fast approaching and from some of the weather we have been having it seems as if it is already here. Many of the Circles meet in June and then not again until September. “Updates and Reflections” also takes the summer off. After this issue, the next one will be out in time for the September Circle meetings.

May 9 and 12 were the Hands-on Mission Days for this year. Fifty ladies contributed about 120 hours of service to community partners. Volunteers from Williamsburg United Methodist Church were at Grove Christian Outreach Center, Avalon, Respite Care, Hospice House and ReStore on Wednesday, May 9th. On Saturday 10 ladies delivered Mother’s Day flowers and greetings to 31 ladies through Faith in Action. Thanks again to Vice President Connie Bland for her leadership on this event. What a powerful group of women we are!!

We have the opportunity to serve Williamsburg area children during this summer. Thanks to Stephanie Slocum we will assist other area churches, the WJCC schools and Rec and Parks to provide meals for 50 children. During the school year, the schools provide breakfast and lunch for children but when schools are closed regular meals can become an even bigger problem. Help is needed to cook and pack 50 meals once per week from 8 -10:30. All supplies are provided. For more information email Stephanie or check with your Circle Chair.

Upcoming events for the York River District and the Virginia Conference include: 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.

Remember that if 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.

Have a great summer!

SOCIAL ACTION

Karen McPherson

The United Methodist Women Social Action mission area has identified several issues to focus on for the year; the York River District has specifically chosen to focus on Climate Change. Here is a summary of one webinar (accessible on the UMW home page) that explains Social Action concerns about this issue.

“In this introductory webinar participants gain an understanding of the lens that United Methodist Women uses to look at climate justice, . . . The changes in temperatures, from the unusual cold in the American Northeast to the blazing temperatures in the Southwest, to the droughts, fires and floods across the country and around the world, affect some more than others. . . . We want everyone to be aware of the ways policy and law have created a multiplicity of environmental pressures on some “sacrificed” communities. At the same time, those in more environmentally balanced areas — although at times also affected by storms and environmental problems — live on relatively unaffected. Power plants, manufacturing, mining, waste incinerators and waste dumps, railroad lines, seaports, sewage treatment plants and trucking routes magnify the concerns during an extreme weather event for the most economically vulnerable. The factors that cause greenhouse gases (the key contributor to human-caused climate change) can also lead to asthma, cancer, immune system disorders, hormonal imbalances, and ultimately displacement, impoverishment and migration.”

At Williamsburg UMC, we are mindful of the need to be “green” as we host events and sponsor activities to further all of the mission activities of the church.

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

The **Carol Scott Circle** met May 8. There were 12 members and one guest present. Vikki DiToto, Shepherd's Fold Coordinator, spoke to us about her mission with Shepherd's Fold. It has enriched her own life as well as those that she visits. She encouraged us all to participate in this very rewarding ministry. Shepherd's Fold is a ministry that reaches out to church member and friends who are not able to attend church because of being housebound or having special needs. Vikki inspired our circle with her enthusiasm for helping others. A sign-up sheet was passed!

The **Clarke-Heritage Circle** met on May 1 and there were 19 members present and one guest, Nancy Cogswell. Our speaker, Elaine Reubush, gave a program entitled "God's Art Gallery." She shared photographs from her travels around the world that show the beauty of God's creations. Our circle collects cleaning supplies for Latisha's House and we continue our monthly volunteer efforts at FISH where we sort and fold lingerie.

The **Friendship Circle** met on May 8. There were 8 members in attendance and 1 guest, Gene Bloomwell. He presented a fascinating program regarding angels, God's messengers. He highlighted a number of Biblical references to angels and then shared his own encounters with angels. Our Circle is using the Response Magazine to learn about the many UMW mission projects from International Ministries to National and Regional missions.

The **Jean Craig Circle** met on May 1. There were 3 members present and our two leaders, Linda Upshaw and Gwen Hamrick. Our topic was Gadgets that have influenced our lives. Gwen led a discussion on what a gadget is and what its purpose is, followed by members identifying modern day gadgets and guessing their purpose. Linda continued the discussion about how gadgets have distracted us from being attentive to God and how we can listen for his voice thru the distractions.

The **Olive Casey Circle** met on Monday, May 7 in the Church Den with 9 members in attendance. Our speaker was Carolyn Yowell of Respite Care. Carolyn gave us so much important and interesting information on this service provided to so many here at our church. Many questions were asked, and we received her heart-felt answers. Our next meeting will be Monday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m. for our annual luncheon. We continue to donate food to FISH, collect items for UMCOR health kits and provide a donation for their shipping.

The **Sisters in Faith Circle** met on Tuesday, May 8, with 9 members present. We assembled hygiene kits for Annual Conference to add to those the church is assembling. We also participated in Hands On Mission days on Wednesday the 9th and Saturday the 12th. Volunteers helped out at Avalon, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Grove Christian Outreach Center and by helping deliver Mother's Day flowers to Faith in Action and Shepherd's Fold recipients

The **Susanna Wesley Circle** met on May 2 and there were 15 members and 1 guest present. Our speaker was Andy Glascott. He brought us up to date on the Youth Group's trip to England. He explained what they will be doing, the places they will visit, and how much he is sure they will enjoy and never forget this trip. After our meeting we assembled all of the items we have collected to make Hygiene Kits for UMCOR. Our group continues to bring food, socks and underwear for FISH and can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. We also sell knives and we use the proceeds to support local charities.

The **Williamsburg Landing Circle** met on Tuesday May 15 and there were 7 members present. Our speaker was Vikki Ditoto. She gave a program on the flower arrangements that are made for the worship services each Sunday. We also collected money for Avalon. For our June meeting we will be going to the Old Chickahominy House for lunch.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Prayers are requested for Fran McKnight as she deals with health issues.
(Clark Heritage)

Prayers are requested for Linda Upshaw's son Kyle who is serving in Iraq.
(Jean Craig Circle)

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Ferrum College Day June 1-2
Conference Breakfast June 16
Hamptom Convention Center
Mission Encounter July 28-29
Smith Mountain Lake
UMW Board Meeting August 27
UMW Membership Event September 23