



# Fairlington UMC Council Quarterly Update to the Congregation: Oct-Dec, 2020

## MISSION AREAS

### 1. FOOD SECURITY

**FUMC has provided goods and financial resources to the following:**

- ALIVE!: This includes FUMC organic vegetable garden produce plus 150 additional bags of food and donations, some of which went to the ALIVE! House. Since March ALIVE!'s Food program has helped more than 12,000 of our neighbors each month, distributing over 1.1 million pounds of food during that time, and our Family Assistance program has helped 900 families pay rent and utilities.
- ALIVE event for children Dec 13: This event provided **234 bags of food (approximately 1,400 lbs) to help to feed 60 families!** The food helped fill the gap for ACPS kids over winter break when the school cafeterias were closed.
- Max's Place, West End Lazarus, Rising Hope, and the Carpenter's Shelter: All have received support.
- 10 FUMC adults assembled 120 bags of food for ALIVE! quick distribution during the weekly pandemic emergency program in November, 2020
- We collected an average of 100 lbs per week of dried and canned food, paper goods, and cleaning supplies for West End Lazarus program in partnership with Trinity UMC and Christ Church.
- We collected and donated 300 more face masks.

### 2. HOUSING SECURITY

- Rental Security Deposit Assistance: As of December, 2020, FUMC had served 109 households with security deposit assistance for a total of \$31,408.
- FUMC has also applied to the UM Foundation for a grant to increase the amount of our Rental Security Deposit Assistance. Grant recipients will be notified in January, 2021.

### 3. IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SUPPORT: UMW provided two baskets for Just Neighbors' "Lady Liberty birthday party" on-line silent auction (immigration).

### 4. CARING FOR CREATION: Winterized the Van Dorn habitat with the help of 28 members of all ages. Replacement trees have been ordered for those that were removed due to decay.

## OTHER COVID-RELATED SUPPORT

- Computers for Refugee Resettlement Program of Alexandria
- Blankets for West End Lazarus program (see Angel Tree Project below)
- Food, household and other supplies for residents of ALIVE! House

## **THE CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE PROJECT**

The Christmas Angel Tree Project benefited Campagna Center Head Start, West End Lazarus ministry, and ALIVE! FUMC provided 175 blankets to West End Lazarus and more than 30 families received Angel Tree gift bags for children.

## **CARD MINISTRY**

The Card Ministry has been renewed for those who are ill/homebound.

## **UNITED METHODIST MEN**

Christmas trees sold at an historic pace this year! Proceeds of over \$9,000 will support various ministries and outreach. Distributed \$10,000 of funds raised during 2019 to churches, community non-profit organizations, and agencies including ALIVE!, Rising Hope, Carpenter's Shelter, and Wesley Seminary. Continued sponsorship and funding support for Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 350. Raised over \$1,000 through virtual barbecue donations (annual chicken BBQ was cancelled due to COVID pandemic restrictions).

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

FUMW contributed financially to ten local and national missions through individual Pledges to Mission and successful fundraisers. FUMW members sent Christmas cards to more than 50 United Methodist Missionaries around the world. "We will definitely repeat this outreach next year!" FUMW weekly podcast discussions focused on African American history to enable participants to better understand racial injustices and #BlackLivesMatter in the United States. All FUMC members and genders are invited to join our 2021 Zoom discussions.

## **HEALTHY CHURCH TEAM UPDATE**

Because the rapidly rising COVID-19 cases in Virginia are expected to continue through February-March, in-person services remain on hold.

## **TRUSTEES**

The trustees finished up 2020 working on two items: First, the Caring for Creation team along with a team of 28 volunteers, provided some much-delayed maintenance to the Van Dorn Wilderness site (which has become an important focus of ministry during the pandemic) and readied it for winter. As a result of generous donations the trustees will soon install three large trees and two more ornamental trees for the lawn area. The three large trees will bring back some of the shade lost with the recent oak die-off, and one of the ornamental trees is a redbud in Devon's honor. After the trees are planted, and as resources become available, native understory shrubs will be added in the recently cleared area. Second, in a do-it-ourself effort, the Van Dorn Street sign has been repaired and repainted. New low-voltage LED lighting has been installed, and a new lower sign with the church's website will be ready soon.

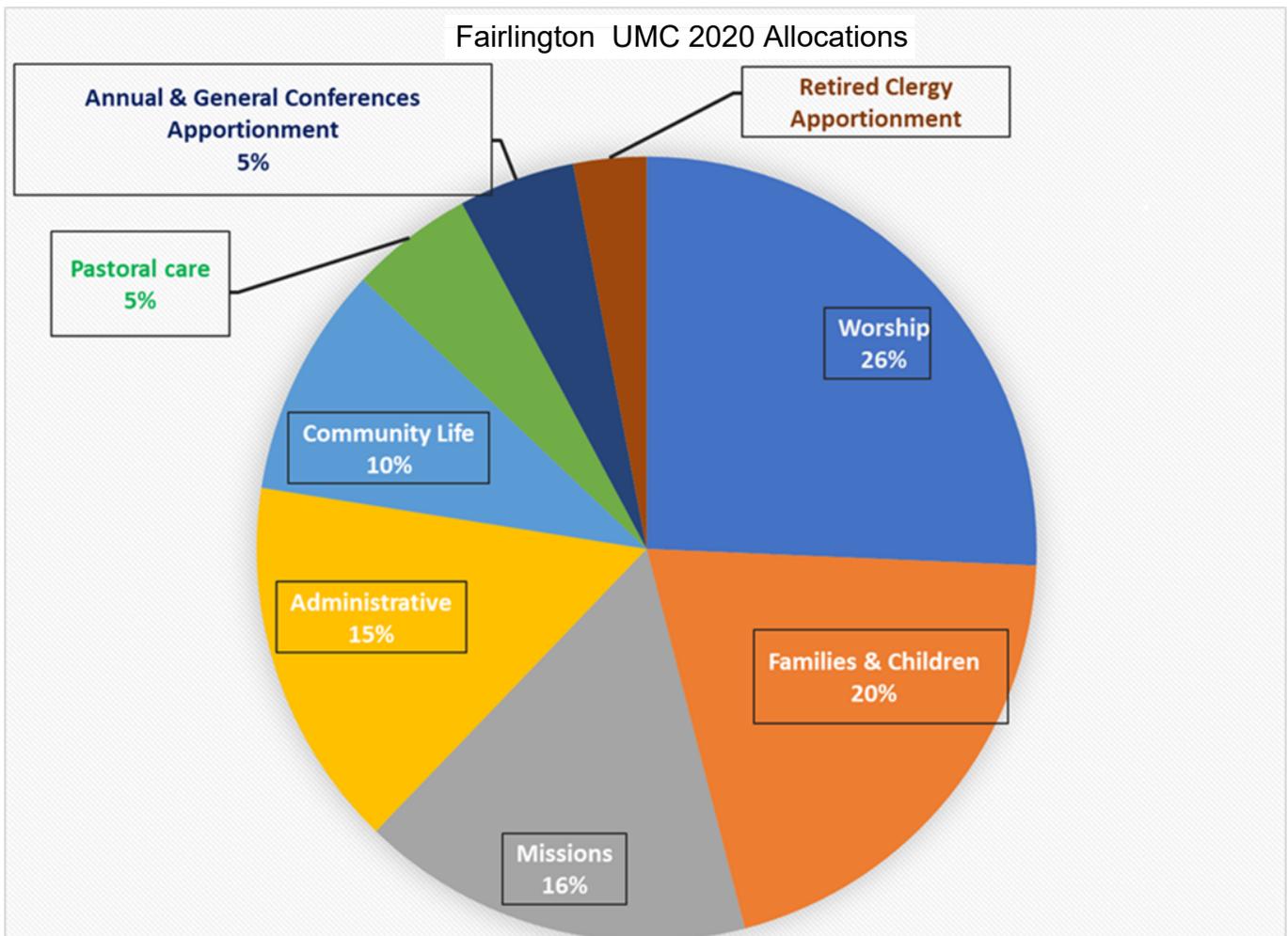
In early 2021 the trustees will take a step back from active projects to create an inventory of our building's maintenance and improvement needs, developing a strategy for moving forward on them. As we anticipate our post-COVID-19 ministry, input from the congregation is needed and welcomed.

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# FINANCE

The Council approved a 2021 budget in the amount of \$941,373.90.

A total of 131 pledges for a total of \$636,040.12 (83% of the \$750,000 goal) have been received. Revenue for Fairlington's annual budget is primarily derived from three sources: fulfillment of pledges from the congregation; collections from weekly plate offerings and regular givers; and payments for use of the building by outside groups, including the preschool. **The fulfillment of pledges is the largest portion of annual revenue, accounting for 70 percent of the budget on average.** Pledge numbers are down and likely will not reach either last year's amount of \$685,000 or the 2021 goal of \$750,000. The COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected FUMC income in 2020 and is likely to do so in 2021. This is an important dynamic in planning for 2021.



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# NEW SIMPLIFIED GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Beginning January, 2021

<b>Chair of Leadership Team</b> , Anne Wilson (term ends 12/2021)	<b>Lay Leaders:</b> Janese Bechtol (term ended 12/2020) & Gerry Hebert (term ends 12/2022). Tracy Jefferson assumes Janese's role in January 2021 (term through 2023)
<b>Trustee Chair (also VP of the Board)</b> Clint Stretch (term ends 12/2022)	<b>President, United Methodist Women (UMW)**</b> Karlene Masters
<b>Finance Chair</b> , Randy Nuckolls (term ends 12/2022)	<b>President, United Methodist Men (UMM)**</b> Marc Dapas
<b>SPRC Chair</b> , Val Berry (term ends 12/2024)	<b>Lead Pastor</b> Janine Howard, attends and is a voting member.
<b>Lay member/Secretary</b> , Laurie Willshire (term ends 12/21)	<b>Clergy</b> Chenda Innis Lee and Christian White non-voting members
<b>Treasurer</b> , Roma Sexson (term ends 12/2022)	<b>Director of Music</b> , Louise Wilson non-voting member
<b>One Lay Member to Annual Conference*</b> Beth Strausser (term ends 12/2021)	<b>Young Adult Representative</b> TBD
<b>Youth Representative</b> TBD	

\*The Nominations Committee identifies which of FUMC's representatives serves on the Leadership Board.

\*\* In churches where UMW and UMM are chartered, as is the case at FUMC, they follow their own guidelines regarding term limits.

As was the case with the previous Church Council, the meetings of the Simplified Leadership Board are open to all FUMC members, who can attend as **non-voting** participants. **The first meeting of 2021 will be January 26 at 7:30pm via Zoom.**

Additional dates: March 23, May 25, Sept. 25 (all day planning retreat – date may change depending on the date(s) of Annual Conference), October 26. All meetings are from 7:30pm-9:00pm.