



The Flame

Volume IV

December, 2011

BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women Executive Committee

President
Nancy Randers-Pehrson

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Eddimae Tisdale

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Spiritual Growth Coordinator
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Social Action Coordinator
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Willa Kynard

Membership, Nurture and Outreach
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Secretary of Program Resources
Linda Yost

Communications Coordinator
Zilpha Pinkney

Nominations Chairperson
Mary Catherine Sencindiver

Social Action Opportunity---The NEJ leadership team has been addressing concerns expressed by some of our UMW in connection with The Hershey Company. There are questions about the sources/suppliers of the cocoa that Hershey purchases. Is forced labor, child labor and trafficking involved in Hershey's cocoa supply chain?

There are two major companies that carry the Hershey name. One is the Hershey Company and the other is Hershey Entertainment. The Hershey Company is the chocolate making company. We have been working closely with the Hershey Lodge, site of our quadrennial meeting, which is a part of Hershey Entertainment. The profits from the Hershey Lodge are used to fund the Milton Hershey School.

The Hershey Company has been contacted and several responses have been forwarded to us. Excerpts from these responses are:

- Hershey is committed to the elimination of the "worst forms of child labor," as defined by ILO Convention 182, from its supply chain. We expect our suppliers to support and participate in industry efforts aimed at the elimination of such practices wherever they exist in the supply chain
- We work hard to ensure that our cocoa is responsibly sourced and to encourage responsible cocoa farming labor practices, and it's important to us that all members of the global cocoa supply chain are fairly treated.
- In our efforts, we are partnering with governments, non-governmental development and human rights organizations, and other companies with similar interest in ensuring fair labor practices.

We support the following programs:

---The WCF's ECHOES (Empowering Cocoa Households with Opportunities and Education Solutions)

---International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)- The (ICI) was formed to eliminate the worst forms of child labor

---The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation- We are currently investing, in partnership with the Foundation and along with our industry peers in a 5-year "West Africa Cocoa Livelihoods Program,"

---In 2010, Hershey revised its Supplier Code of Conduct to clearly communicate to our suppliers and co-manufacturing partners our expectations for responsible and ethical behavior.

Global groups are still challenging The Hershey Company to be more transparent and address these areas:

- to shift its cocoa purchases toward cocoa that can be certified by third-party, independent organizations
- to commit to sourcing Fair Trade Certified™ cocoa. In the cocoa industry, Fair Trade has proven to be the strongest certification
- to improve conditions among its cocoa suppliers---as a company that has prided itself on a rich history of community involvement, particularly in supporting children, Hershey can indeed “raise the bar” and do more.

to take immediate action to eliminate forced and child labor in violation of international human rights standards

Listed below are opportunities to be in mission:

Send all forms of communication to the Hershey Company:

--<http://www.facebook.com/HERSHEYS#!/HERSHEYS?v=wall>

--**The Hershey Company 100 Crystal A Drive Hershey, PA 17003**

--**thehersheycompany.com click on “contact the Hershey Company” click on “Contact Us Form”**

Complete the info and leave your comments

- Urging them to:
- 1) agree to take immediate action to eliminate forced and child labor
 - 2) source from farmers who can show through independent verification that they do not use forced labor or child labor
 - 3) ask suppliers to end such practices throughout their supply chain
 - 4) commit to sourcing 100% Fair Trade Certified™ cocoa beans

Hershey is lagging behind when it comes to corporate social responsibility concerning its core products. Committing to and accomplishing these outcomes would elevate Hershey to the ranks of exemplary leadership within the community of US corporations.

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NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

QUADRENNIAL MEETING

June 14th-16th, 2012

Hershey, PA

Theme: Come To The Party

Scripture: Luke 14:17

“Everything Is Ready, Please Come”



The Northeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team invites you to join us at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey PA.

Thursday's Guest speakers: Bishop Jane Middleton
Inelda Gonzalez, Women's Division President
Friday Bible Study Leaders: Bishop Thomas Bickerton
Friday Guest Speaker: Bishop Peggy Johnson
Saturday's Guest speakers: Rev. Vance Ross, Deputy General Secretary, General Board of Discipleship
Harriet Jane Olson, Deputy General Secretary, General Board of Global Ministries
Music Team Leader: Jorge Lockwood, General Board of Global Ministries, Global Praise
Special Guests: Rev. Dr. Heather Elkins, Professor of Worship, Drew University

Registration Form

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION UNITED METHODIST WOMEN QUADRENNIAL MEETING

JUNE 14-16, 2012 (Thursday-Saturday)

Hershey Lodge----Hershey, PA

Registration deadline: **May 1, 2012**

Online registration available(Sept./Oct. 2011) at www.gbqm-umc.org/nejumw/

Please print clearly _____ M _____ F Ethnicity (optional) _____

Name: _____ Age: _____ under 16 _____ 16-29 _____ 30-50 _____ 51-69 _____ 70 +

Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____ Conference: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Name _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

_____ **Young Women's Conference: Ages 16-29 (Friday only)**

Please Check all that apply:

_____ First Time Attendee	_____ Bishop	
_____ Women's Division Director	_____ Women's Division Staff	_____ Other _____
_____ Nominee, Women's Division	_____ Nominee, Jurisdiction Leadership Team	
_____ Presenter/leader/speaker	_____ Voting Delegate	
_____ UMW Conference Officer	_____ Former NEJ officer or former Director	

Registration, Meals and Housing

Includes: registration, 4 meals, 2 nights lodging
Check one:

_____ Single occupancy \$560.00

_____ Single with family \$560.00

_____ Double Occupancy \$350.00 per person

_____ Triple Occupancy \$280.00 per person

_____ Quad Occupancy \$245.00 per person

Roommate names: (Send all forms together)
(Please Print)

_____ **Late fee: \$ 50.00 (after May 1, 2012)**

\$ _____ **Total enclosed**

COMMUTER

Registration:

_____ Entire meeting \$150.00 (with Friday lunch)

_____ Late fee: \$50.00 (after May 15, 2012)

Meals: _____ Continental breakfast \$11.00 each
_____ Fri _____ Sat = \$ _____

_____ Dinner \$31.00

\$ _____ **Total enclosed for Commuter Registration and Meals**

Check any that apply

_____ Vegetarian meal	_____ Gluten free meal
_____ Handicapped room	_____ Handicapped seating
_____ American Sign Language	
_____ Translation specify _____	

_____ **Extra nights:** I would like information on how to reserve a room at Hershey Lodge for nights before and/or after the meeting (Make sure that your email address and phone # are listed above)

(Turn over- complete other side)

NAME: _____ email address: _____

Mode of Transportation:

_____ chartered bus _____ car _____ plane* _____ train* _____ Other* _____

* Arrival time _____ Carrier _____ Flight number _____

Departure time _____ Carrier _____ Flight number _____

_____ **Child care needed** (complete child care registration form and send in with adult registration)

Send form and payment to : Linda Reiber
PO Box 75
Merrimac, MA 08160

Method of Payment: (checks payable to NEJ United Methodist Women)

_____ Check enclosed or _____ Credit Card (complete information below)

Credit Card Information

If you are charging the cost of the meeting, please complete this form.

Type of Card: _____ VISA _____ American Exp. _____ Discover _____ Mastercard

Card number _____

Code _____ **Expiration Date:** _____

Name on Card _____

Amount to be charged \$ _____

Signature (permission to charge this card)

If you have questions about the meeting, contact the registrar:

Lynn Fenstermacher phone : 518-652-2012 newlyfe713@yahoo.com

Quadrennial meeting information is on: www.gbgm-umc.org/nejumw/

Visit us on Facebook at: Northeast Jurisdiction United Methodist Women Click on "Events"

The President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN — *turning faith, hope, and love into action for women, children, and youth around the world.*

“UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S WORK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE HAS 140-YEAR-OLD ROOTS. From the early missionary societies of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions to the present day, United Methodist Women has been a moral and prophetic voice in speaking out about human rights and social justice issues in the world and taking on the controversial issues of their generations, even when the issue was a difficult one for the denomination to accept.” (Shanta Bryant Gyan, “Rooted in Justice,” Response Magazine, (November, 2011), 35.)

Greetings to my Sisters in Christ,

Did you see the November issue of Response Magazine, entitled “Rooted in Justice” ? Can you find me in the picture on page 38? I am the one in the middle wearing the red Baltimore-Washington Conference Cap, marching in Birmingham, Alabama, in the UMW march for just immigration policies during the quadrennial National Seminar. You know, Jesus was a migrant. He moved around a lot. Soon after he was born, he and his parents had to move from Bethlehem to Egypt to escape King Herod's wrath. (Matthew 2:14) Even though you see me in the march, it is not about me, it is not about you--it is about how God can use us for His purposes. This new law in Alabama makes it illegal for pastors to freely help strangers. (Luke 10:33 and Matthew 25:35)

We, United Methodist Women, have a purpose: to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative and supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. We help to turn faith, hope, and love into action for women, children, and youth around the world. We help by giving voice to those less fortunate. We stand up for injustices, and we help to supply basic needs: food, clothing, shelter, health care, education, etc.

When we answer the call and say, “Here I am, Lord,” we never know how God will use us. I pray that you will continue to be open to God's nudging and say, “Yes, use me Lord for Your purposes.” This has been a very fruitful year and I thank you all for your hard work and support, all for God's glory. Remember to check out our new website: bwcumw.org

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Peace and joy,

Nancy M. Randers-Pehrson, President

Nominations

Nomination of Women's Division Nominees

The bylaws state that at the annual meeting prior to the Quadrennial Meeting of the jurisdiction organization each conference organization shall elect (3) three women as nominees for membership on the Women's Division. Nominees are to be elected from a slate named by the Conference Committee on Nominations. In addition to naming three nominees, the Committee on Nominations also name (1) one woman as an alternate: (Constitution and Bylaws, Article V, Section 5)

In making nominations for the Women's Division, the Committee on Nominations should solicit names from a wide range of persons and places. Talk with persons who have served on the Women's Division and learn what is involved on holding membership on the Division. Read and study the attached article *Choose Women to Lead*. It provides important information about the characteristics and skills that the Committee should look for in considering leadership for the Women's Division.

Women are elected to the Women's Division through three different routes, with the conference annual meeting being one of those routes.

Attachment (1) Choose Women to Lead

Attachment (2) Chart for information on the three routes

Nominees Accepted at the Conference Annual Meeting:

Sabrina White

Edith Williams

Nominations Chairperson

Mary Catherine Sencindiver

Attachment 1

Choose Women to Lead

by LOUISE R. FAWCETT

"Approaching the future joyfully and hopefully ... mindful of our heritage, eager to uphold the standards of our predecessors, conscious of our responsibilities."

Mrs. J.W. Perry, President,
World Missionary Council,
March 1935

New national leadership will soon be identified to lead United Methodist Women in to a new century of mission. Members will begin the process of nominating leaders for the 2001-2004 quadrennium at 1999 conference annual meetings. The process calls for the Conference committee on Nominations to name a slate of three women, taking into account the Women's Division's commitment to inclusiveness. Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the annual meeting. A vote is taken on the total list of nominees.

Conference nominations kickoff is a two-step process of electing directors for the Women's Division. Elections will take place at the quadrennial meeting of United Methodist Women in the Jurisdictions in March 2000.

→ But what should conferences look for when considering leadership for the Women's Division? The characteristics and skills described below can assist you in the selection process.

- Knowledge of and involvement in the United Methodist Church. The Women's Division works within the context of the United Methodist Church. Nominees who understand the structure, doctrines, policies and positions of the denomination as

well as its ecumenical relationships can help maximize the division's effectiveness. Active church membership and participation are a must.

- Dedication that flows from a deep and sustaining Christian faith. A desire to grow spiritually and theologically and to foster growth of others needs to be evident.

- In-depth knowledge of and involvement in United Methodist Women. The Women's Division needs seasoned leaders who know United Methodist Women in its many connectional lines. There must be a commitment to ensuring the viability and integrity of the Women's Division and United Methodist Women in order to respond to the emerging needs of women, children and youth. Knowledge of the rich historical legacy of laywomen organized for mission would be advantageous.

- Demonstrated skills in such areas as: policy development and determination; financial development and resource allocation; communication and interpretation; planning; decision-making/consensus building; problem solving; assessment and evaluation; team work; facilitation; and time management.

- Experience in organization leadership. Nominees must have proven leadership skills, including the ability to work effectively with the organization's diverse membership, accept fiduciary responsibility and practice good stewardship of resources. They must be able to focus on "the big picture," given the national and international implications of the division's work. Nominees should have demonstrated ability to exercise sound judgment, critical thinking skills and the courage to

make hard decisions. Nominees should also have a demonstrated

passion for social justice issues, the maturity to maintain confidences, when required, and the wisdom to use discretion on sensitive information.

A major time commitment

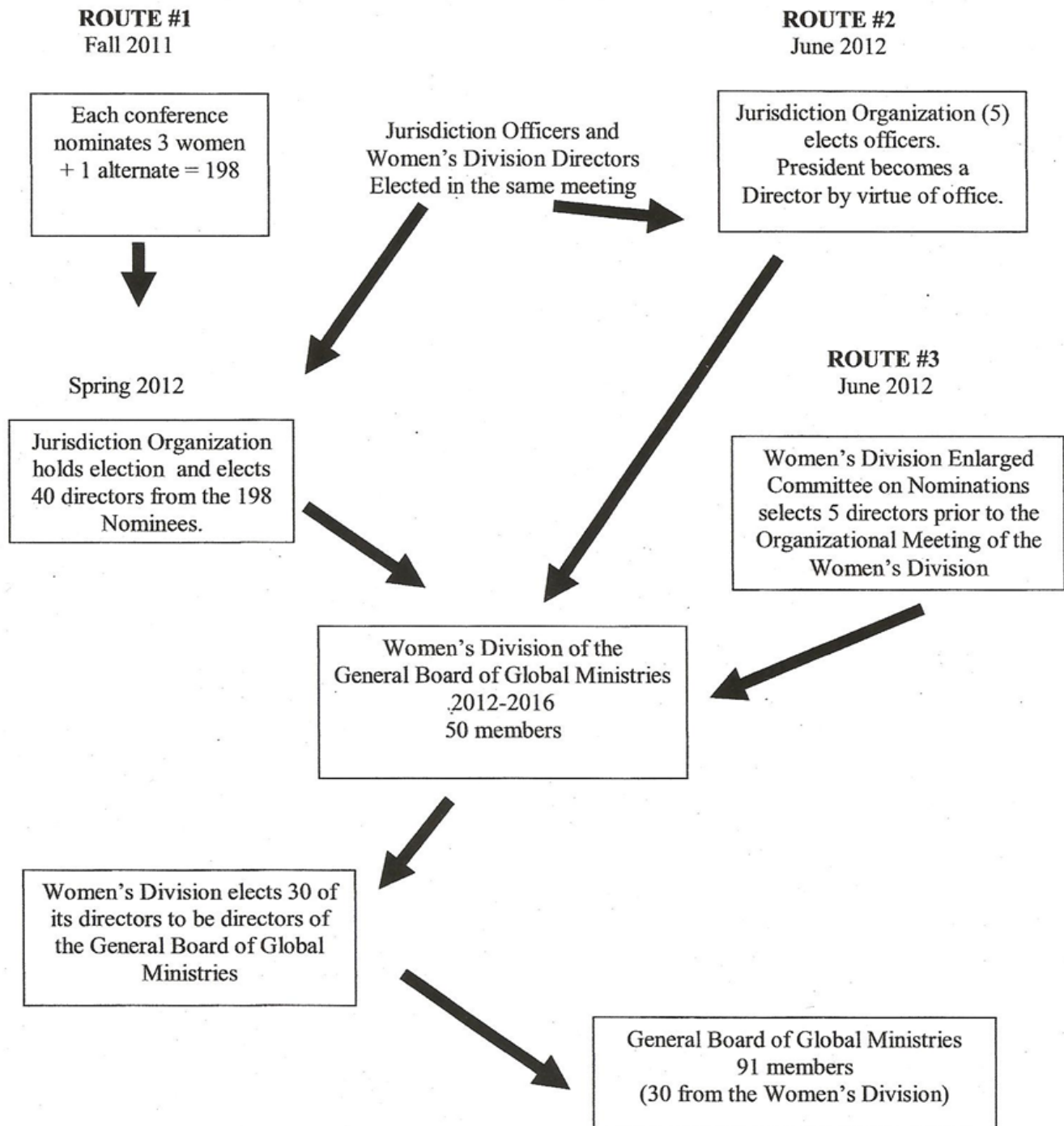
Assuming a national leadership position in United Methodist Women requires a major commitment of time. Directors need time to attend meetings of Women's Division committees, sections, covenant groups, and participate in conference calls and more. Additional time is needed for reading, reflection, prayer and preparation. In some cases, directors are expected to lead national or regional events. Directors can also be called upon to represent the Women's Division at important meetings. In addition, 30 of the division's 50 directors serve on the board of the General board of Global Ministries, which has comparable expectations of its directors' time and energy. Nominees will have a choice as to whether or not they can serve in both capacities.

The roles and responsibilities of Women's Division directors and the framework in which they work are described in *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, 1996 Women's Division, paragraphs 1317-1325.

Strong capable, committed and available leadership is present within our organization. We can and will identify those women who will provide visionary leadership for the approaching years of challenge. May God guide us in this search. ■

Louise R. Fawcett is assistant general Secretary of the Women's Division.

Attachment 2

HOW WOMEN'S DIVISION DIRECTORS ARE ELECTED?

Election of Delegates Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting

In preparation for the Northeast Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting the Baltimore-Washington Conference will elect six delegates, all of whom must be conference leaders at the time of the quadrennial meeting. These leaders will be part of the voting body at the meeting. These delegates should reflect the inclusiveness of the conference.

Nominations and Elections: Article V Section 4: Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting:

- a) The voting delegates to the Quadrennial Meeting of the Jurisdiction Organization shall be the Conference President, Conference Vice President, and the four Conference Mission Coordinators. Two other elected Conference Officers shall also be nominated and elected as alternates.

Conference President: Nancy Randers-Pehrson

Conference Vice President: Elizabeth Stemley

Four Mission Coordinators:

Spiritual Growth: Jane Grays

Social Action: Ann Price

Education and Interpretation: Willa Kynard

Membership, Nurture and Outreach: Jean Jackson

Alternates:

- (1) Heidi Eber – Treasurer
- (2) Linda Yost – Secretary of Program Resources

Chairperson Nominations

Mary Catherine Sencindiver

MISSION TEAM FOR 2012

PRESIDENT

Nancy Randers-Pehrson (BS)
611 Rivershore Court
Edgewood, MD 21040
(443) 866-7263
nancyrp@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth M. Stemley (BM)
1190 West Northern Parkway
Baltimore, Maryland 21210
(443) 850-8544
estemley1190@comcast.net

SECRETARY

Eddimae Tisdale (WE)
5706 Umber Place
Bowie, Maryland 20720
(301) 464-2538
eddimae@verizon.net

TREASURER

Heidi W. Eber (BS)
4201 Beckleysville Road
Hampstead, Maryland 21074
(410) 374-9152
buzzglory@comcast.net

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Jane Grays (WE)
10525 Lime Tree Way
Beltsville, Maryland 20705
(301) 937-6392
ladyjanegra@aol.com

SOCIAL ACTION

Ann L. Price (GW)
11404 Dundee Drive
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721
(301) 464-0602
pricefa@verizon.net

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Willa Kynard (GW)
1451 35th Street SE
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 575-4142
msk3334@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE&OUTREACH

W. Jean Jackson (GW)
13 Jonquil Avenue
Hyattsville, Maryland 20785
(301) 775-4840
wjbjackson@att.net

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

Linda S. Yost (BS)
1910 Upper Forde Lane
Hampstead, Maryland 21074
(410) 239-0429
ljyost@verizon.net

COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

Zilpha Pinkney (WE)
6705 Eilerson Street
Clinton, Maryland 20735
(301) 868-8324
zapinkney@verizon.net

NOMINATION CHAIRPERSON

Mary Catherine Sencindiver (F)
3435 Kearneysville Pike
Shepherdstown, WV 25443-3668
(304) 876-6333
msencindiver@frontier.com

LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

Sue Bradshaw-Shelton (A)
16403 Alconbury Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20716
(301) 218-1785
shelbra51707@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS FOR 2012

Class 2012

Darcia Smith (BM)
5713 Allender Road
White Marsh, MD. 21162
(410) 256-6902
darcia.smith@comcast.net

Ernestine J. Smith (BM)
1000 E. Joppa Road,
Towson, MD 21286
(410) 296-3121
ernestinesmith@verizon.net

Class 2013

Mary Catherine Sencindiver, (F) Chairperson
3435 Kearneysville Pike
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
(304) 876-6333
Msencindiver@frontier.com

Margaret Pennington (C/H)
14301 Moores Hollow Road, SE
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 724-0071
mepennington@juno.com

Grace Marie Watkins (A)
432 Asbury Drive
Severna Park, MD. 21146
(410) 647-0919
aandmatkins@verizon.net

Class 2014

Dorothy Presberry (BS)
18 Shannon Drive
Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 879-7139
dpresberry@verizon.net

Joyce Shelton (CM)
Apt. 503 4521 Mt. Olney Lane
Olney, MD 21104
(301) 774-4312
j_i_Shelton@hotmail.com

Ellen Durigg (GW)
2812 Peregoy Drive
Kensington, MD 20895
(301) 933-6273
emdurigg@verizon.net

Class 2015

Ieesha Gillis (A)
218 N. Charles St. Apt 808
Baltimore, MD 21201
(443) 257-9317 (C)
ieesha.gillis@gmail.com

Pamela Randall (WE)
1785 Horace Ward Road
Owings, MD 20736
(410) 257-7132
pamelarandall53@yahoo.com

The Charter for Racial Justice Policies
There shall be a Committee for the Charter for Racial Justice Policies

Membership: There shall be seven (7) members of the committee: one third of whom shall be women of color insofar as possible. The seven members shall be the president who shall serve as the chairperson, the mission team coordinator for Social Action, and the chairperson of the Committee on Nominations. Four additional members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations. They shall be one district president, one member of the Executive Committee and two members or (three in case of a conference without districts) selected to ensure inclusiveness and/or special expertise in the skill necessary to accomplish the task. Additional members shall serve no more than three (3) years.

Functions: The committee shall;

- 1) develop and recommend to the Executive Committee:
 - a) plans for the implementation of the Charter, and
 - b) plans for training district and local leadership in implementation of the Charter.
- 2) monitor conference approved action plans to implement the Charter.
- 3) regularly evaluate progress made on the approved conference, district and local Implementation plans

Meetings – The committee shall meet at least twice annually

NOTE: The first four mentioned members of the committee (listed in the first paragraph) have their tenure on the committee determined by election to their particular office. The remaining members shall serve no more than three years. Those members are presented by the Committee on Nominations for election at the Annual Meeting.

District president: Rita Green (CM) AA

Executive Committee Member: Eddimae Tisdale (WE) AA

Two members: Barbara Shew (F) C

Colleen Cates (BM) AA

Chairperson Nominations

Mary Catherine Sencindiver

YOU AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE POLICIES

YOU have a very important role to play as a member of the Conference Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies. As someone in touch with the membership and leadership of the conference, you can help the committee understand how racism impacts all that the conference does, and how it affects the participation or lack of participation of all persons in positions of leadership.

Help them understand the benefits of a diverse mission team. When leaders learn and experience multiculturalism within the team they are enriched to the point that outside the group they are new persons, willing to help create a hospitable environment for a multicultural community. That is BEING IN MISSION.

“Multiculturalism refers to the process of recognizing, understanding, and appreciating cultures other than one’s own. Multiculturalism complements the ongoing task of combating racism, sexism, ageism, classism and other forms of systemic oppression.”¹

The Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies can help the whole conference CELEBRATE PEOPLE AS THE GIFTS OF GOD...
LEARNING TO RECEIVE AND AFFIRM THE GIFTS OF ALL.

2012 COMMITTEE FOR THE CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Chairperson

Nancy Randers-Pehrson
611 Rivershore Court
Edgewood, MD 21040
(443)866-7263
nancyrp@comcast.net

Mission Team Member

Secretary
Eddimae Tisdale
5706 Umber Place
Bowie, MD 20720
(301)464-2538
eddimae@verizon.net

Social Action

Ann L. Price
11404 Dundee Drive
Mitchellville, MD 20721
(301)464-0602
pricefa@verizon.net

Two Members

Barbara Shew
18 Concord Drive
Brunswick, MD 21716
(401)8334-9734
bashoe99@aol.com

Nomination Chair

Mary Catherine Sencindiver
3435 Kearneysville Pike
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
(304)875-6333
msencindiver@frontier.com

Colleen L. Cates

5493 Moores Run Drive
Baltimore, MD 21206
(410)488-5369
craftyme@yahoo.com

District President

Rita Green
12410 Fellowship Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(301)330-9818
ritamgreen@hotmail.com

A Message from your Treasurer.....Darlene H. Bowles

Time really flies when you're having fun. My four years are almost up as the Baltimore Washington Conference UMW Treasurer. Now it is my pleasure to introduce you to Heidi Eber, your newly elected Conference Treasurer beginning January 2012. I first met Heidi when she came to my district (Washington West at that time) to present one of the studies that year and I was very impressed. She knew her material and made it interesting for all of us. Also, you may remember her at SOCM when she led us in song with her beautiful voice and sweet enthusiasm. She will be a wonderful addition to the Conference Mission Team.

I have enjoyed working with the District Treasurers and I appreciate their devotion to the UMW. They are ladies with busy lives, but generously give their time to promote the missions that benefit women, children and youth and work hard to honor their district's pledges to support these missions. Below are some of the results of their hard work and dedication.

Report on Mission Giving Pledges and Designated Gifts as of November 15, 2011

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PLEDGE RECEIPTS</u>	<u>DESIGNATED GIFTS</u>	<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Annapolis	\$42,006.05	\$4,628.50	\$2,540.00	\$49,174.55
Balt. Metro.	\$38,070.53	\$2,048.56	\$3,329.50	\$43,448.59
Balt. Suburban	\$33,896.67	\$5,434.46	\$5,252.00	\$44,583.13
Central Maryland	\$23,219.40	\$3,165.00	\$5,322.50	\$31,706.90
Cumb.-Hagerst.	\$16,046.96	\$1,288.00	\$ 100.00	\$17,434.96
Frederick	\$18,229.19	\$3,469.21	\$ 951.00	\$22,649.40
Greater Wash.	\$51,682.60	\$3,975.78	\$4,528.00	\$60,186.38
Washington East	\$38,063.33	\$2,919.56	\$5,419.00	\$46,401.89

5 Star Units

Annapolis	(24 units)	Cumberland-Hagerstown	(13 units)
Baltimore Metropolitan	(36 units)	Frederick	(10 units)
Baltimore Suburban	(22 units)	Greater Washington	(31 units)
Central Maryland	(18 units)	Washington East	(35 units)

Coins for Cholera-Haiti

Annapolis	\$ 387.50	Cumberland-Hagerst.	\$ 142.00
Balt. Metro.	\$ 900.56	Frederick	\$ 435.00
Balt. Suburban	\$1,735.46	Greater Wash.	\$ 537.75
Central MD	\$ 461.20	Washington East	\$ 641.81

Total Giving - \$5,241.28

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

*The Lord gives his people strength.
The Lord blesses them with peace.
Psalms 29:11*

Membership, Nurture and Outreach is especially happy to welcome the newly formed and reorganized units of United Methodist women to the Baltimore-Washington Conference. May God continue to bless you and your work as women with a purpose.

*Counting of the membership is the important responsibility of Membership, Nurture and Outreach. In order to accomplish this tedious task accurately, each United Methodist Women's Unit must respond to a questionnaire that is in a specific format. The local church UMW unit needs to submit this form to their District Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator by a specific time: **January 15, 2012**. Even if a unit has submitted a count for the District Conference Meeting, **each local church unit needs to complete the membership count form and submit it to the District Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator by January 15, 2012, by email or on paper through postal mail.** When a church's United Methodist Women are not included in the count our true dedication and work in the vineyard is not reflected as a district and a conference.*

*This year your unit and district count information can be submitted electronically by email. Included with this edition of the Flame are copies of the unit and district report forms. **These report forms will be emailed to district presidents and membership, nurture and outreach coordinators.** They will be responsible for emailing and/or sending a paper copy of the report form to each local church unit. If any problems or questions arise about completing the form please contact your district or conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator or your district president for assistance.*

*The second project that membership, nurture and outreach is currently involved with along with the nominations committee is "LIMITLESS: Redefine Tomorrow". This is a project sponsored by the Women's Division. It has been designed to train and involve a group of young women for work in the church and more specifically, for work with United Methodist Women. The responsibility of our Baltimore-Washington Conference is to select a team of **two young women and a an adult mentor to covenant with and commit to** the project for its **duration of two years, from August 1, 2012 through July 30, 2014, culminating at the 2014 Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky.***

Information about the "LIMITLESS: Redefine Tomorrow" project has been provided to district presidents, Baltimore-Washington conference team members, and district membership, nurture and outreach coordinators. Please contact one of us for further information.

Thank you, Baltimore-Washington United Methodist Women, for all that you do and have done to support and exemplify the purpose of United Methodist Women during this year.

Praying for continued peace, grace and joy to each and every woman, child and youth.

*W. Jean Jackson
wjb.jackson@att.net
301-336-8452 C-301-775-4840
Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
Baltimore-Washington Conference
United Methodist Women*

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Local Unit Name:			Unit President	
District Name:			Address:	
Conference Name:			City:	
Reported by:			State / Zip:	
Phone:			Phone:	
Email:			Email:	
Numbers of Members as 01-Jan-11				
New Members added				
Numbers Lost by Death or other Reasons				
Total Members 31-Dec-11		0		
<u>Unit Type</u>				
Are you a: Local, Cluster/Charge, District or Online Unit:				
<u>Instructions:</u>			<i>Send copies by January</i>	

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Membership Worksheet for District Leader				Instructions:
Conference Name:				information a numbers into Formulas has which will cal
District Name:				
Reports by:				
Position:				
Phone/Email:				
				#Lost by Death or other Reasons
	<i>Name of Local UMW Unit</i>	<i>#Members 01-Jan-11</i>	<i>#New Members</i>	
1				
2				
3				
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Social Action

Social Action Update

"...whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." Matthew 26:45

Have you ever wondered what immigrant / migrant parents experience when their US- citizen children are separated from them because of detention and/or deportation? There is real cause for concern about the lack of a collaborative interface between immigration enforcement and our child welfare system.

The Applied Research Center (ARC), a thirty year old racial justice think tank, recently completed the first national investigation of associated threats to immigrant parents and their children, *"Shattered Families, The Perilous Intersection of Immigration Enforcement and the Child Welfare System"*. The study looks at children in foster care, how they are prevented from uniting with their detained or deported parents, and failures of the child welfare system to make concerted efforts to reunify them.

According to the report, of the 5.5 million children in the US with an undocumented parent, about 4.5 million are US citizens. The US removed more than 46,000 mothers and fathers of US-citizen children in the first half of 2011. Requests of many deported parents to take the children with them are often denied. There are at least 5,100 children of detained and/or deported parents living in foster care. It is quite common for parents to be detained long distances from their children's locations, with no opportunity to see them. Such parents are often distraught at the inability to see the children or to reunite with them.

The ARC report ends with a series of recommendations that involve Federal, state, and local governments and agencies in the creation of collaborative policies to protect immigrant families from separation. The report reveals several areas which would benefit from strong advocacy support. We expect to hear more on issues involving migrant / immigrant parents and their US-citizen children in the coming days. A copy of the report is available at www.arc.org.

Announcements

MD Legislative Advocacy Day 2012, Annapolis, February 15, 2012: Join us again in 2012 for the B-W Conference United Methodist Women's legislative day, presented in concert with the B-W Conference Social Justice / Missions Office. See the enclosed Flyer / Registration Form.

Hershey / Fair Trade Campaign: All, please be reminded of the NE Jurisdiction United Methodist Women's Campaign to encourage the Hershey Company to join many of its competitors by ensuring its cocoa products are only sourced through Fair Trade certified farmers / companies. See either district presidents or social action coordinators for the Hershey / Fair Trade Post Cards for signature. Also, plan to be in Hershey, PA on June 13, 2012, the day before the Quadrennial meeting, for a rally / meeting at the Hershey Company.

Ann Price, Social Action Coordinator

Spiritual Growth

Mary's Song: This Way to Life

The best of all is-----God is with us.

---John Wesley

As we approach the end of the year, we have celebrated many joys but may have encountered some challenges as well. Whatever we are facing, hymnals are a great source of comfort and joy during our high and low moments. There is always a song that addresses any emotion that we are experiencing. Music is an integral part of the worship experience and an opening song sets the tone of a meeting.

As I reflected on the significance of music, Luke **1:39-56** tells the story of women of faith and I'd like to share this rendition of a familiar story found in the UMW bible, **Mary's Song**.

Jesus is God's heartfelt gift to us. The message of Advent and Christmas is "God is with us". This God-child of Mary is the embodiment of shalom, peace, harmony, justice and wholeness.

When Mary receives the message of the angel that she will be the bearer of the peace child to the world, she runs in haste to her older cousin, Elizabeth, and bursts into a song of praise. We know this song as **Mary's Magnificat**.

Standing on the shoulders of her spiritual foremothers in faith, Miriam and Hannah, Mary sings of a new world and of a new creation God is birthing. Capturing the womanly and spiritual insights of her foremothers, *Mary's song of Praise* lifts up the in-breaking of shalom; Mary's song is a rendition of God's vision of a redeemed people in a redeemed universe.

Lifting her soul and opening her womb to the greatest event in human history, the birth of Jesus the Christ, Mary says yes to the birthing of shalom. As bearer of the Messiah, she embraces God's promise in a hard place at a hard time.

God is still looking for bearers of God's mission who will continue to say yes to God's act of embrace and restore the human family and creation to God's intended vision of wholeness.

Reflection for the New Year:

- Are there places in our lives that need to open up to the reign of God?
- What are some of the things that work against shalom in our lives, families and communities?
- What are some of the ways we can address threats to shalom?

Our Prayer : *God, our Emmanuel, thank you for moving into our neighborhood. We are glad you are in our lives; we surrender ourselves to you as Mary did. Amen*

In His Service

Jane Grays

Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator

LadyJaneGra@aol.com

Maryland Legislative Advocacy Day 2012

Sponsored By

B-W Conference United Methodist Women

In Concert With

B-W Conference Social Justice / Missions Ministry

**Overview of Maryland Legislative Process, Advocacy Training, Issues Discussions,
Office Visits with Legislators, General Assembly Hearings**

ISSUES: Immigration -- Human Trafficking -- Housing and Homelessness

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

8:00 AM: Gathering, Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM - 3 PM: Legislative Day Program Activities

Lunch, As Needed Transport to Lawyers' Mall, Some Parking

Save The Date!

Asbury United Methodist Church

87 West Street

Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Rev. Dr. Carletta Allen, Pastor

Beverly Taylor, President, Asbury UMW

Contacts:

Ann Price, pricefa@verizon.net, 301-464-0602 / Beth Reilly, bwc-advocacy@earthlink.net

**** Provide your e-Mail Address and Telephone Number to receive directions, parking, and inclement weather information.**

Registration Form

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Church / District _____ e-mail _____

Each person will focus one of above 3 issues. State your preference: _____

Registration Fee: \$7.00. Send Check made payable to BWC UMW with Form to: Ms. Heidi Eber, Treasurer, 4201 Beckleysville Road, Hampstead, MD 21074, by Tuesday, February 7, 2012.

Cumberland-Hagerstown District

The Cumberland-Hagerstown District fall meeting was hosted by Mt. Nebo UMW, Boonsboro, Maryland.

Reading program certificates were presented to sixteen UMW members representing John Wesley, New Covenant and Mt. Hermon churches.

Centre Street, Christ, Fairview Avenue, Mt. Hermon, New Covenant and Trinity (all of Cumberland), John Wesley, Otterbein, Washington Square (all of Hagerstown), Cresaptown, Frostburg, Williamsport and LaVale and Park Place of LaVale were honored as Five Star Units.

New Covenant and John Wesley were acknowledged as Mission Today Silver Units.

Sharon Leatherman, guest speaker, presented a program about the UMW Mission in the 21st century.

Margaret Pennington installed the district officers for 2012. They are as follows: President, Merry Dean; Vice President, Deleen Williams; Secretary, Martha Dolly; Treasurer, N. Sue Morgan; Spiritual Growth, Jo Jacqueline Cooper; Social Action, N. Sharon Leatherman; Education and Interpretation, Virginia Wright; Membership, Nurture and Outreach, Marti Femi; Secretary of Program Resources, Billie Williams and Nominations, Wanda D. Shumaker. Sharon Leatherman will publish the district newsletter, INFORMAWOMAN and Merry Dean will do the district directory.

Merry Dean, President

Central Maryland District

The CMD continues to buzz with excitement as we continue growing in our love for the Lord and love of our fellow UMW members. Our Annual Meeting celebration was held on October 15 at Wesley Freedom UMC in Eldersburg. We heard from a wonderful speaker, Karen Heinicke-Motsch, who works for CBM-US which is an organization that works with the disabled in third-world countries. She shared photos and stories of some of her experiences in Haiti.

We recognized 17 5-Star units: Alberta Gary, Asbury, Ashton, Bethany, Damascus, Emory Grove, Fairhaven, Goshen, Hopkins, Memorial, Mt. Gregory/St. Luke, Mt. Zion (Brookeville), Oakdale Emory, Providence, St. Paul (Sykesville) Wesley Chapel, and Wesley Freedom. We elected and installed the 2012 slate of officers: Rita Green, President; Pennie Adams, Vice President; Edna Johnson, Secretary; Tamara Hull, Treasurer; Adella Wadell, MNO; Cheryl Goodin and Marcia Marcellus, Education and Interpretation; Mary Jefferson, Nominations; Doris Byrd-Watts, Program Resources; Joyce Shelton, Spiritual Growth; and Cindy Waugh, Social Action. We were blessed to have Conference President, Nancy Randers Pehrsons conduct the installation. We initiated a new category of mission team members that we are currently calling “shadows” to work with current mission team members to provide support and learn our positions.

Our offering at the meeting was split between “Coins for Haiti” and our pledge. Our total for “Coins for Haiti” was \$556.

We look forward to the opportunities that 2012 will bring to *BEE* a blessing to others.

Rita Green

President



2011 BWC UN Seminar

By Pattie Klein/St. Matthew's, Bowie, Washington East District

Right before Thanksgiving, I attended my first UMW UN seminar in New York City. I didn't know exactly what to expect, but every other UMW event that I've attended has been worthwhile, informative, and spiritually moving, so I expected the same of the UN seminar. I was not disappointed! This year's topic was "A Domestic and Global Challenge: Violence and Abuse Against Women and Children." The seminar was conducted at the Church Center for the United Nations, in the building owned by the Women's Division, which is the national policy-making body of the United Methodist Women. The Church Center is right across the street from the UN in New York City. Our hotel was also across the street in the other direction.

I learned so much at the 2-day seminar. We learned about the types of Domestic Violence (DV), such as physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual. Did you know that about 1/3 of the women you know have been abused during their lives? This was a *sobering* statistic to me. We listened to presentations on DV and had small group discussions afterward. We made simple drawings of "what DV looks like" and talked about the incidences we drew. We participated in the "In Her Shoes" exercise, which provided powerful insight into what it's like to live as a battered woman. We learned about the United Methodist Church's policy on DV (see Book of Resolutions, paragraph 3423). We received useful information about dealing with DV victims and collected multiple resources to take back to our church, including printed materials, website addresses, points of contact, and knowledge. All the information was delivered with a genuine sensitivity to incidences that many of us may have been exposed to in the past. For that, I was truly grateful.

We found time for fellowship and fun too! A comfortable bus was provided so we could relax on the way to and from NYC. Some women chatted, some read, some gazed out the windows, and some even managed to nap! It was a beautiful fall morning, and I was able to do a little bit of all those things.

While in New York, many of the attendees saw one or two Broadway shows, went on a sightseeing tour, or took the opportunity to relax. I saw the show *Memphis*, which I HIGHLY recommend. We were within walking distance of Times Square, Broadway, and the Empire State Building. We received a tour of the UN building, which was quite enjoyable. We saw the General Assembly room, which is the one you usually see on TV. Our guide also took us to see the Security Council room, which isn't usually open to tourists.

The last seminar activity we participated in was to make an Action Plan to move forward with in the near future. In the coming months, I expect that the local units will get the information that was received at our 2-day UN seminar. I hope you will consider attending next year.



Greater Washington District

GWD Annual Meeting was held on October 8, 2011 at Colesville UMC, 52 Randolph Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Rev. Callie Matthews, Pastor and Jean Shields, President, Colesville UMW. There were approximately 140 attendees. Thirty one (31) units received Five Star Certificates, Sandra Chambers, Treasurer, and 12 units received Mission Today Unit Certificates, Dorothy Stubbs, Education & Interpretation Coordinator.

United Methodist Women's Reading Program

Thirteen (13) United Methodist Churches participated in the 2011 Reading Program and gained readiness for the spiritual journey facing all Christians.

Number of readers for the following plans:

Plan I -	33 readers	163 books
Plan II -	9 readers	100 books
Plan III -	2 readers	30 books
Plan IV -	3 readers	61 books

Collectively forty-seven readers from thirteen (13) UMW churches read 354 books.

Geraldine Whitley

Program Resources Secretary

One unit has been added to the GWD: Bell's UMW, Camp Springs, MD. Rev. Johnsie Cogman, Pastor, Elizabeth Griffin, President. Grace United Methodist Church Unit, Takoma Park, MD, Elizabeth T. McDavies, President, and Rev. Paul Johnson, Pastor is in the process of becoming a new unit.

On October 22, 2011, the GWD hosted the Baltimore/Washington Conference Annual Meeting held at First Church Hyattsville.

The GWD Local Officers Training will be held December 3, 2011 (for 2012).

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works!
In wisdom hast Thou made them all:
The earth is full of Thy riches.
Psalm 104:24

Gertrude White
President

Baltimore Washington Conference United Methodist Women (BWCUMW)

Events Calendar 2012

EVENT	DATE	TIME	PLACE
SOCM Meeting	Jan 9	6:00 pm	Conference Center
ROCK	Jan 21-23		Ocean City, MD
BWCUMW Mission Team Planning Retreat	Feb 4	9:00 am-4:30 pm	Conference Center
SOCM Meeting	Feb 15	6:00 pm	Conference Center
Legislative Advocacy Day	Feb 15	9:30 am-11:00 am	Annapolis, MD
"The Flame": Newsletter Article Due	Feb 15		Zilpha Pinkney
CUMW Finance Committee	Feb 18	9:00 am -11:00 am	Conference Center
CUMW Program Committee	Feb 18	11:00 am-12:30 pm	Conference Center
Young Women's Seminar: Violence Against Women	Feb 18-25		New York City
Greater Washington District (GWD) Legislative Seminar	Feb 25	9:30 am	Woodside UMC Silver Spring, MD
"The Flame": Newsletter Mailed	Mar 1		Zilpha Pinkney
CUMW Mission Team	Mar 10	9:00 am- Noon	Conference Center
COSROW: Women's Event	Mar 10	2:00 pm- 5:00 pm	Conference Center
SOCM Meeting	Mar 12	6:00 pm	Conference Center
National Gathering EAD	Mar 23-26		
Nominations Committee	Mar 24	9:30 am – 11:30 am	Conference Center
Epworth House Scholarship Luncheon	April 14		
SOCM Meeting	Apr 9	6:00 pm	Conference Center
UMW Trustee Meeting	Apr 10	10:00 am -1:00 pm	Conference Center
SOCM Meeting	May 14	6:00 pm	Conference Center
"The Flame": Newsletter Article Due	May 15		Zilpha Pinkney
CUMW Mission Team	May 18	6:00 pm- 8:30 pm	Conference Center
BWC UMC Annual Conference	May 30-June 1	Wed-Fri	Baltimore
"The Flame": Newsletter Mailed	June 1		Zilpha Pinkney
Nominations Committee	Jun 2	9:30 am – 11:30 am	Conference Center
SOCM Meeting	Jun 11	6:00 pm	Conference Center
NE Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting	Jun 14-16	Thurs 6:00 pm-Sat (Noon)	Hershey, PA
Regional School	Jun 17-20		Elizabethtown College, PA
SOCM Meeting	July 9	6:00 pm	Conference Center
School of Christian Mission	July (TBA)		

Young Women's Event	Aug 1-5		Duke University
"The Flame": Newsletter Article Due	Aug 15		Zilpha Pinkney
CUMW Finance Committee	Aug 18	9:00 am -11:00 am	Conference Center
CUMW Program Committee (Calendar 2013 finalize)	Aug 18	11:15 am-12:30 pm	Conference Center
"The Flame": Newsletter Mailed	Sept 1		Zilpha Pinkney
SOCM Meeting	Sept 10	6:00 pm	Conference Center
UMW Trustee Meeting	Sept 11	10:00 am -1:00 pm	Conference Center
CUMW Mission Team	Sept 15	9:00 am- Noon	Conference Center
Susanna Wesley House Fall Luncheon	Sept 15	11:30 am-3:00 pm	TBA
Wesley Learning Center	Sept (TBA)		Wesley Seminary
SOCM Meeting	Oct 8	6:00 pm	Conference Center
1) Annapolis & 2) Greater Washington District Annual Meetings	Oct 13		1) TBA 2) Gethsemane UMC Capitol Heights, MD
Baltimore Metropolitan & Washington East District Annual Meetings	Oct 20		TBA
BWCUMW Annual Meeting & District Officer Training	Oct 27	9:30 am- 3:00 pm	Baltimore Suburban District
SOCM Meeting	Nov 12	6:00 pm	Conference Center
"The Flame": Newsletter Article Due	Nov 15		Zilpha Pinkney
Women's Division LTE	November	TBA	St. Louis, MO
UN Seminar	November	TBA	NYC, NY
16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence	Nov 25-Dec 10		Worldwide
"The Flame": Newsletter Mailed	Dec 1		Zilpha Pinkney

Prayer Vigil: End Violence Against Women: The Center for Global Women's Leadership's *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign* is ongoing. The annual Campaign began on November 25th and will end on December 10th. This year's theme is, *"From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!"* The B-W Conference United Methodist Women will observe a moment of prayer for "an end to violence against women" at 12 noon, Saturday, December 10, 2011. This is the last day of the *Campaign*, which is also *International Human Rights Day*. With our prayer vigil, we will join thousands of activists in over 100 countries around the world to focus on ending the various forms of violence against women, both inside and outside of the home. Ask others to join us at 12 noon, Saturday, December 10th, as we prayerfully say no to violence against women, a universal phenomenon! **Ann Price, Social Action Coordinator**