



The Flame

Volume II

June, 2012

BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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VICE PRESIDENT

Beloved! God is doing amazing ministries through mission and outreach for children, youth and families through the services of the United Methodist Women in the Baltimore Washington Conference. An organization of Women whose purpose is to know God, serve others and make disciples for the transformation of the World.

We are excited about the direction of mission activities at the local church level as well as the conference. We encourage each unit to involve young women in becoming a part of a great Sisterhood, of United Methodist Women. The vision: Is turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

Your valuable services are needed in the following:

Volunteers served at the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference Prayer Line on May 30-31, 2012 sponsored by the UMM and UMW.

(VP, cont.)

(Vice President, cont.)

United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men first Partnership Luncheon happened on May 31, 2012 at 12:00 noon. This event was held at the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place to kick off the beginning of UMW/UMM signature project against Domestic Violence. Local church UMW/UMM are encouraged to develop a joint Domestic Violence awareness program to be implemented in the month of October.

Intergenerational Planning Committee is in the process of identifying women to be a part of this activity for Women in 2013. We are offering the opportunity to each district to recommend a young person as well as an adult to serve. Please send your names with email and phone numbers by June 1, 2012 to the VP.

Start now making plans for District participation in the BWC –UMW Annual Conference in October. The theme is” Mission Storytelling”. Each District will have 3 minutes to highlight one unique mission experience in your district. This effort will be coordinated by the district presidents.

I look forward to our work together in mission on behalf of children, youth and families. As we serve God we serve other.

Peace,

Elizabeth M. Stemley, VP

443-850-8544

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MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH

Greetings and happy spring to the women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference,

The first half of 2012 has been a busy time for membership, nurture, and outreach. We began and completed our membership census for 2011. Thank you to each and every woman who contributed to making the count a success. Special thanks are extended to the District Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinators and to the District Presidents, who worked diligently to collect, assemble, and submit the requested information. A new electronic system was used this year that was not compatible with all computer systems. According to the numbers reported, there were at least 7,450 women in the Baltimore-Washington Conference who supported the Purpose of United Methodist Women in 2011. All efforts toward this project are truly appreciated.

Although the response for applicants to participate in the Young Women's Redefine Tomorrow project were extremely limited, we are pleased to announce a team of three young women who will represent the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women. They will attend the three day seminar at Duke University on August 2-5, 2012. The team will be: Ashia McCraw, the teen member, Catherine M. Watkins, the young adult woman; and Veronica Bradford, the adult mentor. Our gratitude and congratulations are extended to these young women.

The third project assigned to Membership, Nurture, and Outreach for the first half of 2012 will culminate on June 1 and is a request from the Northeast Jurisdiction planners. This project is a report of the number of visitations district and conference officers have made to local churches and UMW units in the past four years, since the last jurisdictional meeting in 2008. Thank you to district presidents and conference mission team members who are submitting their visitation count numbers to the membership nurture and outreach coordinator by May 31.

Summer promises to be a busy one for United Methodist Women. I look forward to greeting many Baltimore-Washington Conference women as we enjoy the Northeast Jurisdiction in June. Since the Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be so very close to the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas this year, we are expecting to have great numbers of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men and Youth present on August 3-5, 2012. I hope to see you there.

W. Jean Jackson

301-336-8452

wjbjackson@att.net

“Giving thanks always for all things

unto God the Father in the name of

our Lord Jesus Christ;”

Ephesians 5:20

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Conference Center.

Discussion Items:

Our newest member, Geraldine Whitely, of the Greater Washington District was introduced to the Board.

Reports from the Baltimore Parish Work, Susannah Wesley House, Nominations Committee, BWC UMW and the Investment Committee were presented.

Unanimously members voted to increase giving to the BWC UMW Mission Team from \$9,000.00 to \$10,500.00.

Election of Board members are being given a strong consideration.

Mr. Douglas Potter, Investment Advisor from Lombard Securities highlighted inflation and sources of income.

Investment Committee meeting Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Meeting adjourned until September 11, 2012

Janice D. Mason,
President

Mission Study books for 2012 Cooperative School of Mission



Spiritual Growth: Immigration and the Bible

Geographic Study: Hope for Haiti

Social Action: Poverty

President

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

"General Conference Approves **United Methodist Women** Autonomy." By a vote of 889 to 20, General Conference made United Methodist Women an autonomous organization within the United Methodist Church.

Greetings to my Sisters in Christ,

The Women's Division's proposal to become "Structurally Separated, Missionally Connected" to Global Ministries passed at General Conference! The United Methodist Women organization is now an autonomous organization. Praise God! This was not part of the legislation that was overturned by the Judicial Council at General Conference, so we are going ahead with the plan. I will be attending our Regional School soon in preparation for our Cooperative School of Christian Mission for further guidance on this restructuring. It is my understanding at this time that our local, district, and conference UMW organizations will stay the same except we will be permitted to function with fewer officers if desired. Also, the local "units" will be called local UMW "organizations."

Please continue to stay focused on MISSIONS, for our organizational foundation is supported by our local UMW organizations, who have faithfully stood firm in our commitments of expressing compassion in tangible ways to our Sisters-in-Christ near and far. God has a purpose for us, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jer. 29:11) Through the United Methodist Women, we offer hope to those in need, especially women, children, and youth.

Peace be with you,

Nancy M. Randers-Pehrson
President

NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH!

"Our (the Baltimore Washington) conference has recently received the first remittance from our UMW unit at Centenary UMC in *Bermuda*! God bless these women for making a Pledge to Mission at the National level. Much like many of our units, historically their mission-giving monies before now have been used at the local level. And didn't we all start out that way...until our baby steps strengthen us enough to reach out beyond our own neighborhoods. Congratulations to Centenary UMW on making a generous Pledge to Mission, and we thank you on behalf of Mission Giving, of Women's Division, UMW, Inc., and all our National and International Mission Partners who will be recipients of their generosity. May God continue to bless Centenary's missions and ministries!"

Heidi E

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP SCHOL'S OFFICE

March 30, 2012

In Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek, slave and free person, male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus. –Galatians 3:28

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Ruth and I worked together a number of years ago and as we drove through a community, she said to me that I should not slow down but keep moving. She spotted a car following us and said that a white man and an African American woman in the same car make people anxious in this all white community. She knew what she was talking about when the car began to flash its lights. We kept moving and left the community. It was a new experience for me but not for Ruth. She told me how African Americans needed to be careful in some communities and how they are watched carefully in certain situations.

The death of Trayvon Martin, an African American youth from Florida, has brought to the forefront of our consciousness that racial division continues in our nation and, yes, even in the church. Race tends to be the first distinguisher we recognize when we see someone we do not know. It is not their gender, not their height, not their age, but their race. It is not only true for African Americans in particular but also for people of other races – they are watched more closely when they shop in stores, enter an Anglo neighborhood or enter an Anglo church.

It may not be what we want, but it is a part of the original sinfulness of our world. We look for differences rather than what we have in common. Paul wrote to the Galatians, a people who also saw difference rather than Christ in one another, and encouraged them to be like Christ and treat one another as equals.

The stories will continue in the news but we do not need to continue to look for differences or justify our own viewpoint. The fact is, a young person died and we are divided. How do we as the church of Jesus Christ change our hearts and the hearts of others so that we live together as one race, the human race, and as a diverse people eliminating racism and building the community of God within our churches and our communities?

I call upon all of the churches of the Baltimore-Washington Conference to pray this weekend in your churches for the Martin family who lost a son. Pray for the nation, that we will address the division between the races and bind the wounds that we have created. Pray for the church, that we will model an inclusive community that reflects the love of Christ for everyone.

I also call upon all of our churches to engage with congregations that are of a different race than your own congregation. Have a fellowship meal together, study the Bible together, and engage in community mission projects together. Get to know one another and share the Christ that is in us with one another.

I also call upon all United Methodists to work together to end racism. I invite pastors who are preaching against racism to continue and for others to begin to preach about the sinfulness of racism. I call for the church as a whole to teach about the evils of racism.

I am grateful for all of those who choose to have friends or worship with people from other races. In the Baltimore-Washington Conference, we have one of the highest number of multiracial and multicultural congregations in the denomination. Thanks be to God for these congregations because they give us a glimpse of the kingdom of God. I also give thanks to God for our African American churches who in the midst of racism and segregation have continued to be Christ for us as a United Methodist Church.

Keep the faith!

John R. Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church
The Washington Area
Baltimore-Washington Conference

*This article is re-printed with permission of Bishop Schol's Office, May 8, 2012.

[B-W Conference UMW, Charter for Racial Justice Committee]

Social Action Update...

Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) 2012:

I was one of about 750 members of the international faith community at Ecumenical Advocacy Days (23-26 March 2012) in Washington, DC. One of the more important purposes of EAD 2012 was to prepare participants to become more effective advocates to interface national, state, and local leaders on economic security issues. The theme for this year's gathering, "Is This the Fast I Seek?" was based on a Scriptural reference to Isaiah 58:1-12. The 2012 program included topics of interest across the global spectrum, with a focus on "Economy, Livelihood and our National Priorities". It addressed our biblical challenge to live righteously, and to heed the call to care for others by feeding the hungry, providing shelter for the stranger, releasing the oppressed, and providing for and clothing the needy. Throughout the event, we were reminded that the US national budget is more than simply a collection of categories, line items, and dollar amounts. Rather, it is essentially a moral document which should have the capability to adequately support the most vulnerable persons within our society, ensure taxes are equitable for all, support a sustainable environment, and enable us to provide the best international humanitarian and poverty-focused assistance that we can afford. This moral aspect of the budget evidences our responsibilities as advocates to emphasize the people, program requirements, and other clarifications that make the budget come alive for us, and with our help, for our national legislators, as well. Our actions as faithful advocates will help to ensure antipoverty, low income, and other support programs are sustained at least at the levels they have been in the past. It really would be wonderful if Isaiah 58:1-12 could become a Scriptural reference for each of us. We should commit, or re-commit ourselves to show by our actions that we really do love everyone as we love ourselves.

UPCOMING EVENT:

UN Seminar 2012, New York City, Sunday, November 18th thru Tuesday, November 20th. Everyone, please join us for this year's United Nations Seminar as we focus on another timely topic: Human Trafficking: A Global Challenge for Today's World", sponsored by the B-W Conference United Methodist Women. Register by October 04th to take advantage of our great early bird rates! See our flyer in this edition of the Flame. Contact Ann Price, (301) 464-0602 / pricefa@verizon.net, or any Committee Member for additional information.

Ann Price, Social Action Coordinator

United Methodist Women call on the Hershey Company

BY ANN PRICE

BWC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Having selected Hershey, Pa., as the site of the 2012 United Methodist Women (UMW) Northeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting, the UMW seized the mission opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Hershey Company. On June 13, several members of the BWC UMW joined other members of the UMW in a meeting with Hershey officials to talk about fair trade certification and child labor issues in West Africa.

The women met with Andy McCormack, Hershey's Vice President for Public Affairs. Sabrina White, BWC member and President of the Northeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Women, presented to McCormack 2,035 signed postcards submitted during the past year by women from across the country. The postcard message to Hershey was, "Adopt fair trade certification standards for all of Hershey's chocolate products, and move aggressively to forward and sign contracts with your current suppliers detailing fair trade transition plans."

The group was undaunted when the meeting was turned over to former Ghanaian Ambassador to the United States, Koby Koomson, who spoke at length on the "wonderful childhood experiences" of children in Ghana, where "public education is mandated." With a series of follow-on questions, they expressed their concerns about child labor and child labor trafficking on small West African cocoa farms, and Hershey's failure to adopt fair trade certification standards for all of its cocoa sourcing (supply) activities.

Two UMW partners, Liz O'Connell (Green America) and Sean Rudolf (International Labor Rights Forum), accompanied the UMW to the Hershey mission event. Even though the Hershey Company meeting was closed to them, they led the group in a lively, follow-on debriefing session. Discussions included Hershey's responses to UMW questions, clarification of child labor issues, and the impacts of fair trade certification.

Several United Methodist Women from the Baltimore-Washington Conference offered prayers during a devotional service to commemorate "World Day Against Child Labor," celebrated internationally on June 12.

Global child labor issues and UMW's advocacy work in the child labor and labor trafficking arenas were key topics during the service.

Hershey has recently instituted a certification process for obtaining cocoa supplies for two of its chocolate product lines, which may represent about 1 percent of its annual sales and cocoa purchases. Hershey also announced it is instituting other programs to support farmers in West Africa where Hershey obtains most of its supply of cocoa. The United Methodist Women told Hershey that these initial "baby steps" are certainly welcomed and applauded.

Through its delivery of the 2,035 signed "Fair Trade Certification, Hershey, Get With It!" postcards, questions, and comments, the United Methodist Women left Hershey (the largest United States manufacturer of chocolate products) with an important message: Hershey, a multibillion dollar sales company, can do much more to help cocoa farmers eradicate and prevent child labor in West Africa.

Issue Date: **Tue, 07/03/2012 - Located on the Conference Web Page**

Treasurer

My Two Cents

Let's talk SMR's this month. It seems there's a lot of concern in the Conference UMW units about the timeliness of Special Mission Recognitions, and the processing of these through our treasurers. Although National has made it a stream-lined process, please remember that unless you use the internet, there is just going to be some time delays in the mailing and sending of SMRs and their beautiful pins. Here are some steps to ensure that your SMR can be processed quickly and smoothly, to ensure a timely delivery.

1. Use the National UMW website to download the Excel version of the SMR Form. This can be found on the GIVE page, down at the bottom. In the right-hand corner you will find "Donation Forms for Treasurers." Once you download the Remittance form, it is very easy to move within the boxes to fill out the form. In fact, once you save most of the information on the form, like your unit name, district, conference, and treasurer information at the bottom, you never have to fill it out again. Simply save each submission with a different number on your computer, and you will be all set (e.g., SMR 2012-01). You simply change the name of the person or unit that is sending/receiving the SMR pin itself. The form does ALL the calculations for you. This is a simple and effective way to get the information to your District treasurer quickly. The more units that can use this form, the swifter you can all get them to National.
2. When you send this spreadsheet/SMR order to your District Treasurer, also email me a copy at "buzzglory@comcast.net". Even without the check in hand, I am able to pass along these SMR submissions directly to National when they are done through email. If not, then I have to retype all the information, from all of our units, onto a new order form. So if you email it, your SMR request can go right in as soon as possible in order to get your pin on time. Then follow up with the check and the printed form directly to your District treasurer via snail mail, along with the rest of your remittance to her.
3. Last recommendation: Plan Ahead! All the units should be planning their fall SMR designations beginning in June! If you are sure that a unit officer is retiring, or that you will be giving out a pin to _____ at your fall Annual meeting, order these pins NOW. Don't wait until August to send in a pin order that you need for a September meeting. Remember that if you just mail in your orders via post, that the time delays will remain, so you must plan at least two months ahead. In the springtime, you should plan at least three months ahead. That means, you should put in any pin orders for April or May meetings no later than February of 2013.

I know it seems difficult sometimes to plan in advance, we don't always know what life will bring us. But several units have a standard practice of ordering a \$40 pin in January, with it as "undesignated" and thus, they have an emergency pin on hand for their calendar year. If you know that your unit will be giving a pin this year, why not just take the opportunity of following this example, and starting the year by looking forward. Of course, you know that I would also challenge you to try the "email" way of sending in your pin requests directly to your treasurer and myself. Learning new things can keep our minds sharper, and keep our brains more vibrant!

At least I hope it will, as I am learning SO much by being the Conference UMW treasurer.

God bless our gifts,
Heidi Wiljanen Eber

Nominations

The committee has been working on the [positions](#) to be filled in 2013. In the previous "Flame" the responsibilities for the open positions were listed: Spiritual Growth, Communications Coordinator, Chairperson Nominations and the (2) positions for 2016 Nominations Committee.

When we go back and look at the words in the "Hymn of Promise", we will note these words: "There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing HOPE to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery. Unrevealed until its season, something GOD alone can see. We are full of HOPE from the past and leading us into the future for a brighter tomorrow, "That All May Have Life", and United Methodist Women will continue to move forward in Faith, Hope, and Love in action for ALL.

Do we have YOUR talent sheet?

Shalom,
Mary Catherine Sencindiver
Chair/Nominations Committee
2011-2012

Secretary of Program Resources

Dear Sisters in Christ!

It's a beautiful morning in May, and I'm hoping to get outside and dig in my garden! There have been quite a few rainy days that have prevented any outside involvement with nature, but those are the days we can catch up on our reading. Have you been enjoying the new books for 2012? I would recommend "More Bad Girls of the Bible" by Barbara J. Essex. This book is in the newest category, Leadership Development. You will enjoy this author's take on some of the familiar women in the Bible, and also some you may have never met. In the Nurturing for Community category, one book that I could hardly put down is "I Am Najood, Age 10 and Divorced", by Nujood Aki with Delphine Minoui. This autobiography is a tale of courage and struggle for a young girl who finds herself in an intolerable marriage.

Here's hoping I'll see many of you at the Baltimore-Washington Conference 2012 Cooperative School of Christian Mission, which is being held at the Bethesda Marriott on Pooks Hill Road, from August 3rd – 5th. The Resource Room will have a large selection of Reading Program Books, as well as study books and UMW materials.

Somewhere I have heard the saying, "Reading opens a window to the soul." Let's open them wide and often!

Blessings in Christ,

Linda S. Yost, Conference Secretary

Past President Phyllis Butler

On Oct. 1, 1932, in Washington, D.C., a daughter, Phyllis Jean, was born to the late Ruth Lewis and George H. Puffenberger. Two years later, a brother, George Lewis "Bud," joined the family. He survives with his wife Judy, of Sebring, Fla. At the age of 5, due to the death of her mother, Phyllis came to Berkeley County to reside with her grandparents, Alice and Pressley Lewis, and her Aunt Mable Lewis, who became a second mother to her and all predeceased her. Phyllis attended Pikeside Elementary School and Martinsburg High School active in many school activities and clubs, she graduated in 1951. This in spite of missing a full year of school in 1950 due to polio.

Following high school, Phyllis was employed at Potomac Light and Power now (Allegheny Power) until her marriage in November 1957 to A. Elwood Butler, a Berkeley County farmer and orchardist, who preceded her in death in March 2000. Phyllis served as the accountant for the family business, Butler Brothers Dairy and Orchard, until retirement.

A lifelong member of Arden United Methodist Church, Phyllis involved herself in church activities. At Arden she taught Sunday school classes, played piano/organ, directed the choir, was treasurer, lay leader and lay member to annual conferences, and served on many other capacities. As a member of the United Methodist Women, she was elected the first president of the newly formed Frederick District of the Baltimore Conference. She served as the president of the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women from 1976-1980, the first woman outside the Baltimore-Washington area to be elected to that position. She was elected Lay Leader of the Conference, the first woman to hold that position.

For five years she was chair person of the Conference Council on Ministries. Other responsibilities included conference nominating committee, conference personnel committee, chair of the Time to Grow Capital funds drive, and dean of the school of Christian Mission. Phyllis was elected to six years directional and five years general conferences of the United Methodist Church, serving as chairperson of the delegation in 1992.

On the general church level, she was a member of the general council on Ministries for eight years, served on the Advance Committee For United Methodist Committee on Relief and was a member of the Episcopacy Committee whose responsibilities included assigning bishops to their areas of service.

An avid reader, Phyllis also enjoyed traveling and was fortunate to attend the World Methodist Council in Singapore in 1991, the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany in 1990 and a mission trip to Haiti in 1984. She visited 40 states, including Hawaii and Alaska, and as a member of the Appalachian Development Committee she traveled to all 55 counties in West Virginia.

Locally Phyllis was a member of the Auxiliary to the West Virginia Horticultural Committee, a member of the Southern States Farm Advisory Board and served as president of the now defunct Church Women United. She was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and a reader to elementary students at Hedgesville Elementary School.

A special joy in the life of Phyllis and Elwood was their son, Steven Pressley Butler, who died in 1974, but whose memory blessed them throughout their lives.

Contd.

Past President Phyllis Butler, contd.

Survivors in addition to her brother include many dearly loved nieces and nephews, including Beth Mann and husband, Charles, Gregg Puffenberger and wife, Michelle, Jeff Puffenberger and wife, Jennifer, Bruce Butler Jr. and wife, Susan, Gregory Butler and wife, Jennifer, Bryan Butler and wife, Tracy, Eric Butler and wife, Annette, Anne Deardoff and husband, Jack, Terry Miller and husband, Steve, Elaine Bobo and husband, Mark, Rebecca Daniels and husband, Scott, and Trina Miller and husband, Jeff; brothers-in-law Robert and Virginia, Bruce and Virginia, and Carroll D.; many cousins and great-nephews and great-nieces; and her good friend and caregiver, Dorothy Straley.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at the Arden United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. Kathy Spitzer officiating. Interment will be held in the Arden United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Family will receive friends from 3 to 5 and from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday at the Brown Funeral Home.



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BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Peace as Action

Acts 1: 4-5

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

The United Methodist Women members will be empowered by the Holy Spirit as they communicate the fullness of God’s kingdom explore definitions of peace to become mediators, and they will assume responsibility to be peacemakers in their communities. (Walk With Wholeness - May, 2012)

Actions Taken by the BMD:

The Prayer Breakfast held at Lovely Lane UMC April 28, 2012 was a marvelous success. This Mother Church of American Methodism traces its history as far back as 1772. It is registered as a National Historic Landmark and also designated as a Baltimore City Landmark. As the participants were registering, they submitted their donations of canned goods for “Manna House”, a shelter in the neighborhood. The 87 participants in attendance were entertained with gathering music, worship and a scrumptious banquet of breakfast delights. President Dorothy Krug, of Love Lane UMW introduced the pastor and the local members of the church. She also entertained us with a delightful oral history of the church. After the litany and prayer lifted from “Walk with Wholeness”, we were entertained by our guest soloist Margaret Petty. Following, Rev. Nancy Nedwell gave the Departing Prayer and the participants were invited to take part in a tour of Lovely Land Church and Museum with a tour guide.

- ◇ Flip flops, white “T” shirts and health kits will be collected at SOCM, the BMD Annual Fall Meeting and the Annual Fall Meeting of the BWC. These items will be distributed both locally and to Haiti.
- ◇ Visitation to local BMD UMW anniversaries include Union Memorial, St. Mathew 23rd Street and upcoming St. John of Pumprey.
- ◇ The District is looking forward to continuing the work of UMW missions by fulfilling our specific projects and obligations.
- ◇ SOCM is calling for youth to be active participants.
- ◇ UMW will be participating in ROCK in January 2013.
- ◇ Prayer shawls are being requested and will need to be presented at the BMD Annual Fall Meeting.

Contd.

Baltimore Metropolitan District, cont.

Throughout the year

Programs/Events for the year - SWH, BPW, Board of Trustees and Women's Division

Pledges and Budget

Reading Program - Response Magazine

5 Star

Mission today

YWC - Young Women's Circle

Projects - local and global

health kits, prayer shawls, flip flops, "T" shirts, can good, items for homeless shelters (contact a local one near you to determine what they need), after school tutoring programs, volunteer at soup kitchens or food pantries, developing a young women's group, prison ministry, parenting skills, job seeking skills, career enhancement, English as a second language, establish a fellowship with women of another race, ethnic group or culture, domestic violence forums or clothes closets.

Issues to act upon

- ◇ Domestic Violence
- ◇ Women's Rights
- ◇ Immigration
- ◇ Health Care
- ◇ Environment
- ◇ Economic Justice
- ◇ Racial Justice
- ◇ Public Education
- ◇ Child Advocacy
- ◇ Global Justice

Dates to Remember

May 30, - June 1, BWC UMC Annual Conference - Baltimore

June 14-16, - NE Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting - Hershey, PA

Aug. 3-5, - School of Christian Mission, Marriott Hotel - Bethesda, MD

Sept. 8, - Susanna Wesley House Fall Luncheon – Conference Center - - 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Oct. 13, - BMD UMW Annual Fall Meeting - Towson UMC - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Oct. 27, - BWC UMW - Annual Fall Meeting/Officer Training Hereford UMC - BSD - 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Nov. ____ - UN Seminar - NY

Nov.25 - Dec.10, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence - Worldwide

Web sights for

Baltimore Washington Conference UMW - <http://bwcumw.org>

Women's Division - <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/>

*Blessings,
Janice D. Mason*

The Central Maryland District

The Central Maryland District sponsored its first spiritual retreat on May 19, 2012 in the lovely Woodlands Room at Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg, MD and it was a blessed day. We began the day with prayer offered by our new Spiritual Growth coordinator-Cheryl Gooden who then introduced her 10 year old, Jazmine Green. Jazmine presented a moving dance which was tailored to address the issue of domestic violence, one of the topics of the day. Following Ms. Green, we were inspired by a great message from Deaconess Gertrude Dailey who spoke on the topic, "Simply Servants Assisting God," based on Luke 8:1-8.

Mrs. Pamela Matthews, a very talented vocalist and member of the Goshen UMW, blessed us with several musical selections. We were informed about the troubling issue of domestic violence by Jennifer Pollitt-Hill from the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County. Following a delicious catered lunch by "Cater to you," we were engaged in a simulation activity entitled, "In her shoes." In this activity attendees were paired up with someone they did not know and together they read about a couple involved in domestic violence. Together the pair would read about situations the domestic violence couple might be involved in and make a decision about a choice the couple might have to make. Throughout the day attendees were asked to take a strip of colored paper and talk with someone that they did not know and find something that connected them with each other. The strips were then linked to a chain on the worship center that was linked to a cross symbolic of our theme, "Connect with God and with each other." We were honored to have conference president, Nancy Randers-Pehrson join us for most of the day.

I would like to put Fairhaven UMW's prayer shawl ministry in the "BEE Spotlight." The following article was written by Sharie Bernard who was instrumental in starting Fairhaven's project.

In the summer of 2010, the Fairhaven United Methodist Women of Gaithersburg, MD, decided to take on a small project designed to provide comfort to those members of the church grieving the loss of a family member or a church member who might be seriously ill. Little did we know that this "little project" would, in only a short time, produce hundreds of prayer shawls, as well as scarves and hats for the homeless.

Prayer shawl ministries are a nationwide movement which began about 1998. The shawls are created by members of the congregation and given to church members, their family or friends in need of comfort and prayer. As the shawls are being crafted, we pray and think of the comfort that we hope the recipient will receive as they wrap themselves in the shawl.

The original idea behind prayer shawls was to provide comfort and support to the critically ill, families who have suffered the loss of a family member or those who are in assisted living or nursing homes. But like many prayer shawl ministries, we provide shawls and blankets for babies' baptisms and for wedding celebrations. We want to provide comfort and love for both times of concern as well as times of joy. Recently, we were able to do both. Friends of a UMW member were expecting twin boys. During the pregnancy, the mother-to-be was placed on bed rest that would go on for weeks, so a prayer shawl was provided and well as a blanket for the impending birth. Happily, it was reported that the babies were born recently – small but healthy.

In addition, the group decided last summer that we would knit and crochet scarves and hats to be presented to the local men's shelter at the same time that the Church's Outreach Committee delivered bag lunches. So on a Sunday in January, 2012, over 100 scarves and hats were blessed during the services and delivered the next day to the shelter. Along with a little gift of warmth and comfort, we sent our prayers for the individuals.

While there is always a lovely array of shawls and lap blankets presented at the communion rail for the blessing, there is always a need for more. Our group meets once a month although everyone is knitting or crocheting shawls all the time. And we try to involve any member of the congregation who wants to join us – if someone can't knit or crochet; there are many things that are needed – sewing labels on the shawls or wrapping the shawls for presentation.

Rita Green
President



Warming Hearts at the House



ANNOUNCING . . .
The SWH Housewarming Wish List Campaign!!
June 15th through August 15th

Bringing Beauty, Continuity and Expressions of Caring to **Susanna**
Wesley House Residents

SWH will be welcoming new residents from the YWCA Greater Baltimore in August 2012. When they arrive, we want them to know that they are no longer living in a shelter or on the streets--

THEY WILL BE HOME!

We have planned a unique 'House Warming,' to express our support for these previously homeless mothers and children.

As friends of SWH, we invite you to join us.

To learn how you, and or your church, organization or company, can help, please click the link below; which will take you to our

'Warming Hearts at the House' Wish List Campaign website:

<http://www.swhhousewarming.org>

**You're going to love this! Visit the website TODAY;
the Campaign ends August 15th!**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Susanna Wesley House, Incorporated, is to assist women in need and their dependent children; to provide a safe, clean home; and to ensure a viable program for the residents to obtain independent living.

The Blanche Powell Memorial United Nations Seminar

About Blanche Powell:

Blanche Powell was a member of the United Methodist Women with a passion for justice for all. She had an openly passionate view of the United Nations as a workable hope for peace, and was thoroughly committed to the UN and to the will of God. She became a Women's Division Director and was a United Nations' interpreter for the Women's Division, as well. With roots in the Women's Society for Christian Service in the Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, Ms. Powell served as a Mission Team member at every level of the United Methodist Women's organization. She was an outstanding elder stateswoman within the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women. Today, Blanche Powell continues to stand as an exemplary role model for women all over the world.

2012 UN Seminar Committee:

Darlene Bowles, (301) 929-1432
Heidi Eber, (410) 374-9152
Jean Jackson, (301) 775-4840
Willa Kynard, (202) 575-4142
Ann Price, (301) 464-0602

Sabrina White, Consultant
(President, NE Jurisdiction UMW and
Women's Division Director)

Baltimore-Washington Conference
United Methodist Women

President, Nancy Randers-Pehrson
(443) 866-7263



New York, here we come!

Let's begin the 2012 holiday season
in New York City! Experience the following:

- A tour of the UN Building
- See a Sunday 2012 Radio City Music Hall
Christmas or Broadway Show Matinee
- Enjoy the Radio City Music Hall 2012
Christmas Show Sunday or Monday Evening
- Go Holiday Shopping
- Go Sightseeing in "The Big Apple"

... and, most importantly, participate in
UN Seminar 2012, to return on Tuesday,
Nov 20th to prepare for Thursday's
Thanksgiving festivities!

Information for Bus Pick-up:

The bus departs promptly at 7:30 AM Sunday,
November 18th, from Wesley Memorial United
Methodist Church, 5602 Johnnycake Road,
Baltimore, MD 21207 (Rte 40 & Johnnycake Road).
The approximate return arrival time for the bus in
Baltimore on Tuesday, November, 20th, is 7:30 PM.
For door to door directions, use your GPS or
MapQuest on-line. Additional directions will be
provided to you when your registration is confirmed.

2012 Blanche Powell Memorial United Nations Seminar

Sponsored by the Baltimore-
Washington Conference



Sunday, November 18, 2012 -
Tuesday, November 20, 2012

The Millennium UN Plaza Hotel
One United Nations Plaza
New York, New York

United Methodist Seminars
The Church Center for the United Nations
777 UN Plaza, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Phone: (212) 682-3633
Fax: (212) 682-5354

Welcome

Clergy and laity, men and women, young adults and youth, are invited to attend the Baltimore-Washington Conference Seminar on international issues sponsored by United Methodist Women. This year's Seminar is about yet another one of today's most pervasive and pressing social justice issues, human trafficking, a local, national, and global phenomenon. The United Methodist Seminar Program on National and International Affairs is a joint program of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) and the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS).



2012 Seminar Topic:

"Human Trafficking: A Global Challenge for Today's World"

If you need additional assistance, please contact:

Ann Price, 301-464-0602, Cell: 301-704-8686

or

Willa Kynard, 202-575-4142, Cell: 202-716-8898

ACCOMMODATIONS AND FEES

Included in the cost is a \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee. The fees include hotel costs, UN Seminar fee, bus transportation, hotel portage, and baggage storage for late checkouts, with a One Bag Maximum, per person.

***Note our low early bird rates this year!**

(Early Bird: By Oct 04 th) Oct 05 - Oct 23			
Double (2 in a room)	\$273.00		\$313.00
Triple (3 in a room)	\$248.00		\$288.00
Quad (4 in a room)	\$236.00		\$276.00

The single room fee is available upon request.

Note: The above costs are to be paid by each person sharing a room.

Also, the Committee cannot be responsible for assigning roommates. Persons sharing a room must identify roommate(s) on the registration form. **Separate registration forms are required for each person.** Roommates should send their forms together.

(Please do not contact the Hotel directly.)

As of 7/6/12: Make Checks payable to BWC UMW. Send Registration Forms/Checks to:

Darlene Bowles, Registrar
4921 Morning Glory Court
Rockville, MD 20853

**** Registration confirmation will be forwarded with information on the Seminar after your registration and payment are received.**

Note: Bus transportation and hotel accommodations on this trip are for persons attending UN Seminar 2012 only.

UN SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone (Home) _____ / (Cell) _____

FAX _____

E-Mail _____

Church _____

District _____

ROOM CHOICE: _____ Single _____ Double
 _____ Triple _____ Quad _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ CK# _____

ROOMMATE (S): _____

STATISTICAL INFORMATION:

Laity _____ Clergy _____ Female _____ Male _____ Youth _____

First time for UN Seminar? Yes _____ No _____

United Methodist Woman? Yes _____ No _____

CONFERENCE PROJECTS 101

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2012



ST. MATTHEWS UMC

14900 Annapolis Rd

Bowie, MD 20715

301-262-1408

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Sponsored by the
EPWORTH HOUSE COMMITTEE

WHAT DOES CONFERENCE PROJECTS 101 MEAN TO YOU?

You are cordially invited to come and find out about all the Baltimore-Washington United Methodist Women's Conference Projects.

We will have a presentation from all nine CONFERENCE PROJECTS with light refreshments served.

The CONFERENCE PROJECTS are as follows:

Baltimore Parish Works

Epworth House

Family Crisis Center

Montgomery Avenue Women's Center

Shepherd's Staff

Shenandoah Women's Center

Susannah Wesley House

YWCA Domestic Violence

Conference Scholarship Fund



POC: Zilpha Pinkney, 301-868-8324 or zapinkney@yahoo.com