



THE FLAME

THE BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

VOLUME III

September 2014



PRESIDENT

And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*" (Romans 10:15, NIV) (Paul is quoting Isaiah 52:7)

Dear Ones,

Greetings: Thank you for taking a leap of faith, uniting together as Methodist Women and allowing the Lord to use you for His glory! Many of you are now returning from attending Mission u (School of Christian Mission) and can now answer the question: How is it with your soul? I pray that you can answer: It is well with my soul! As you focus on Jesus Christ, in prayer and studying the scriptures, and are open to His calling to mentor and serve others in their transformation, I pray that you will become even more dedicated to filling any open positions in your units/district/conference. It is time to get out of your comfort zone and enlarge your territory at a new level for serving women, children and youth as you put faith, hope, and love into action. You are needed and loved. If you want a blessing in your life, be a blessing!

Our UMW Conference GOALS for this year of 2014 are:

1. To improve communication between Conference, Districts, and Local Units.
2. To improve awareness of the Mission Projects.
3. To implement the Charter for Racial Justice. (Ask your District/Local President about the new Diversity Today Unit Program).
4. To live out our purpose and to add one new Local Unit to each District.

President (Cont'd.)

The UMW Purpose: *The United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is 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.*

Please pray continuously and if you are up at 6 AM, please join the morning prayer line: Dial 605-475-4700, Access: 640162# -- However, God's prayer line is always open 24/7. (No telephone required!)

SAVE THE DATES:

Sep 6 - BWC UMW Leadership Team Meeting, 9-2 PM, Conference Mission Center (CMC)

Sep 27 - Susanna Wesley House Luncheon, 12 noon, Grand Venue Hotel, Baltimore, (please donate baskets)

Oct 11 - Stopping Domestic Violence Training, 8-5 PM, Sharp Street UMC, Baltimore (\$10 each, check with District President to be on a team—2 teams limited to 12 people in all per District.)

Oct 14 - Wesley Learning Center, Chapel Service 11 AM, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC

Oct 25 - BWC UMW Annual Celebration Meeting at the Conference Mission Center

Nov 22 - Conference Training for District Officers at the Conference Mission Center

Nov 23-25 - UN Trip

May 15-17, 2015 - The Charter for Racial Justice Seminar, Blackstone Conference Retreat Center, VA

June 16-18, 2016 – NE Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, The One Center, Syracuse, NY

Blessings,

Nancy M. Randers-Pehrson





BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

President

Nancy Randers-Pehrson

Vice President

Elizabeth M. Stemley

Secretary

Eddimae Tisdale

Treasurer

Linda McNeil

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Zilpha Pinkney

Social Action Coordinator

Judy Smith - Cindy Waugh

Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Willa Kynard

Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator

Jean Jackson

Secretary of Program Resources

Linda Yost

Communications Coordinator

Gertrude White

Nominations Chair

Nominations Chairperson - Pamela Randall

VICE PRESIDENT



UMW/UMM PILOT FOR CHURCH TRAINING

The BWC/UMM Partnership has received a training grant (for professional staff and resource materials) from Faith Thrust Institute. This grant will provide for 1 day training session in Domestic Violence and Abuse. We are asking the 8 BWC Districts to organize 2 teams to be composed with 2 women, 2 men and 2 youth/ young adult. Please reflect in membership the composition of your district. These teams will take part in the Domestic Violence and Abuse Church Training on Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 8 am through 5pm at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, 1206 Etting Street, Baltimore, Maryland. 21217. A minimum of four and a maximum of six persons are required for each team. The cost is \$10.00 which covers materials and registration.

Each church team must complete a Church Application for participation in Domestic Violence Training. The forms for each person must be returned by the new deadline August 30, 2014.

A UMW/UMM Collaboration Meeting is scheduled for Sunday August 31, 2014 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Baltimore Washington Center. Please confirm your team's attendance.

BWC ANNUAL CELEBRATION

The BWC Annual Celebration will be hosted by the Central Maryland District UMW Leadership Team. This event will be held at the BWC Center 11711 East Market Place, Fulton, Maryland 20759-2594, on Saturday, October 25, 2014, from 10:00 pm through 3:30 pm. The theme: *Make Mission Happen through Faith, Hope, Love in Action*. These activities will be set up like a Mission Market where participants will have the opportunity to experience each event. Two speakers will share information on specific topics and will engage the group in hands on activities.

Registration form is included in this issue for specific information. Please complete and returned before October 15, 2014. Box lunch (ham, roast beef, turkey, tuna and, veggie) at the cost of \$10.00 will be provided. In preparation for the program booklet all reports must be submitted by September 22, 2014. Please type reports in a word document using font size 12 for all reports. Send completed information to the VP and Communications Coordinator.

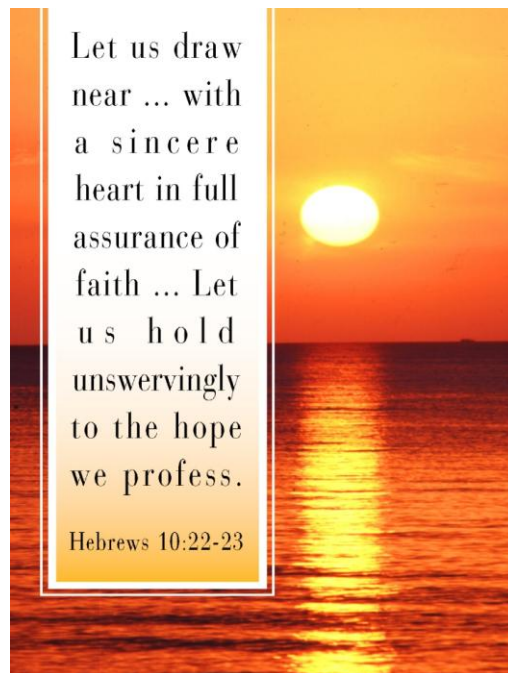
LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The leadership training for district leaders will be conducted by conference officers scheduled for Saturday, November 22, 2014 at the Baltimore Washington Conference Center, from 10:00 pm through 12:00 noon. The agenda will consist of a panel discussion followed by specific training by conference officers. (Outgoing officers are responsible for training their replacement).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Grace and Peace,

Elizabeth M. Stemley, VP



SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR



What a treat we had at our closing worship at Mission u. Some members of the Deaf Choir from Christ UM Church of the Deaf in Baltimore, MD, where Rev. Sandi Johnson is the pastor, came and joined with us in this closing worship. The service was done for the deaf. The entire worship service was signed. We were the ones with the disability because we had to listen attentively to the interpreters in order to follow along and know what was happening. Pastor Sandi's sermon "Who Needs Help??" was signed and let us know that everyone needs help and everyone has some type of disability.

One thing we learned is when there is movement, such as the offering or passing of the peace there is no signing because everyone has to be in place in order to be able to see the signer. Even though there are differences in our ways of worship, our intention to praise God is the same. It is all about edifying and glorifying Him to the highest.

Zilpha Pinkney

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR

Greetings E & I Officers,

It was wonderful seeing everyone at our 2014 Mission u, the meeting was just the best. Our E & I up date was both helpful and a way of meeting and helping each other. We are all beginning to understand our new UMW. Please pass all of the information to your team members both District and Local. Many of you stated that information is not being passed down. As I stated it is very important that the E & I persons should be able to go to a person to answer questions about UMW. If you would like your own copy of the newsletter please send your name and e-mail address to Gertrude White at tudytil@aol.com. We, the conference team will do all that we can to keep everyone informed. We will continue to share and grow together with God's help. If at any time you have questions, please call me or any member of the Conference team.

Yours in Christ,

Willa Kynard

Education and Interpretation Coordinator

202-716-8898



MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR



Greetings of joy, peace and love to the women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference,

As we are ending summer and looking forward to a very busy fall season of United Methodist Women missions, celebrations, meetings and a myriad of other projects and activity, I pray that we are holding our purpose before us as our guiding principle:

To expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. The United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative and supportive fellowship; and

Hopefully, many are still encouraged and inspired by our experiences at Mission u where we learned about and examined the needs of those with disabilities in our churches and communities. Not only must we provide accessibility, but we must also be aware of our content and presentation as we seek to be inclusive of all of God's children. Our Bible study caused us to think critically about the status of our souls and to practice four verbs in order to keep our souls well: pray, learn, mentor and transform. Our youth school, again, was wonderful and enjoyed by the youth. The adults were especially touched by the presentation by the youth at our final worship service. Rev. Sandy Johnson blessed all of us by including us in some of the worship practices of the deaf community. We were all enlightened and spiritually moved. Begin now to plan for attending Mission u next year and for sponsoring a youth (young lady or young man).

We are very pleased to welcome the women of Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church, Washington East District and their president Vergie McGee. Mt. Calvary chartered a new unit during the morning church service on May 22, 2014. We thank their pastor, Rev. Jerome Jones, Sr., for supporting the women. Thank you also to Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator, Joyce Dean and district president Nona Colbert, for their work to establish the unit.

Membership, Nurture and Outreach (Cont'd.)

October 25 is the date for our **annual celebration** of United Methodist Women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The celebration will be held at the **conference center**. We hope to see more women than the center can hold!



UMW Members with Pastor, Rev. Jerome Jones, Sr., District and Conference officers.

*Grace and peace,
W. Jean Jackson
wjbjackson@att.net
301-336-8452 C-301-775-4840
Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator*

BALTIMORE METRO VOICE

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Turning FAITH, HOPE and LOVE INTO ACTION for women, children and youth.

John 9:2-3 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him."

"United Methodist women are almost 150 years old. It hasn't remained an important and life changing organization by maintaining the status quo. Change is what we work for. Change is who we are. United Methodist Women will work for change in the church and in the world." (*Response, June, 2014*) Just like United Methodist Women of our country and the world, we as a District in accordance with the Conference UMW, will be making a change and advocating for God's children who have disabilities.

The Baltimore Metropolitan District United Methodist Women attended Mission u 2014. There were 16 representatives from the District, 5 Mission Team members and 26 youth were represented. Proudly, 3 of them were from Eastern UMC. Our jar openers were very receptive by those who attended. We will now begin to prepare for our upcoming Mini Mission u session and Leadership Training.

Our Annual Fall Meeting will be held at Cherry Hill UMC , 3225 Round Road, Baltimore, MD 21225, Saturday October 11, 2014, registration begins at 8:30 AM and the telephone number is 410- 355- 0022.

The Mission Team Members have been requested to share the following information with local units.

- A. Please submit these important items of utmost importance to the following Mission Team Members by the ***first week in September*** in preparation for the Annual Fall Meeting, October 11, 2014 at 8:30 AM at Cherry Hill UMC. Baltimore.

- For 5 STAR to Muriel Praileau, 7 Elkwood Court, Baltimore, MD 21228.

Baltimore Metropolitan District (Cont'd.)

- For Mission Today to Audrey Weems, 5348 Gist Ave. Baltimore, MD 21215
- For Reading Program to Jameeka Gillis, 1117 A Ramblewood Road, Baltimore, MD 21239.

Submit your local unit's membership number to Daphne Hurd , 3707 Yolando Road, Baltimore, MD 21218

- B. Please have your 2015 pledge amounts prepared to submit.
- C. Please bring the following items to the annual fall meeting:
 - for prison ministry – underwear and socks for both men and women
 - prayer shawls
 - pillowcase dresses
 - health/layette kits
- D. Be prepared to report any activities pertaining to:
 - domestic violence
 - human trafficking
 - report on backpack lunch distributions to church community schools
 - report on school supply distribution to church community schools
 - report on supporting a homeless shelter
- E. Needed: Participants from the Baltimore Metropolitan District churches to participate in the ***Domestic Violence Church Team Training***. Need 2 men, 2 women, 1 young adult and 1 youth for two teams. Training will be on Saturday October 11, 2014 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Sharp Street UMC in Baltimore, MD.

The registration fee is (\$10.00). Contact Elizabeth Stemley at Estemley1190@comcast.net or Bill Weller at billweller@verizon.net for more information and an application (was due by Aug. 15, 2014).

Janice D. Mason, President

BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT



The Baltimore Suburban District was well represented at the General Assembly and at Mission u.

We are now preparing for our fall Annual Meeting which will be held at Mt. Olive UMC on Old Court RD, Randallstown, MD 21133, on September 27, 2014 . Our speaker will be Rev. Stacey Nickerson who is the pastor at the Board of Child Care. We are asking the women to bring the following items to make Welcome Kits for the children who come to the Board:

**bar of soap or liquid body wash
small shampoo
comb
washcloth
hand lotion
toothbrush
toothpaste
deodorant**

The cost will be \$10.00 for lunch.

Come and join us while having fun and helping the children at the Board of Child Care.

Susan Davis, President

Baltimore Suburban District, UMW

FREDERICK DISTRICT



Hello My Sisters in Christ,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer. It is a time to enjoy picnics, barbeques and the beaches. With that said it's time to get back to work. A time to send the kids back to school and get ready for fall.

Our dear friend Joyce Hall has stepped down as Frederick's president. So in the interim, I have volunteered and been accepted to serve in the role as the UMW President of the Frederick District and will be on the 2015 slate of officers to be elected to this position at our October annual meeting. We have a nomination for our new Vice President who will be on our 2015 slate for the election and installed at our fall meeting, as well.

Joyce Hall is now the pastor for Hopehill UMC. Hopehill's pastor, Rev. Erma Dyson, has been having a medical issue and is in need of our prayers. Please pray for Joyce as well.

We are still in need of a new secretary and a nomination committee. Please pray about this and if so led please contact me. Our Annual District Meeting will be held at Deer Park UMC on October 11, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Please see attached flyer and reply to the RSVP by the number of people going by unit. Our keynote speaker will be Sherie Koob.

At the May Prayer Breakfast, a new outreach was discussed, *Second Street and Hope*. This outreach operated out of Centennial Memorial UMC in Frederick. It has a pantry, food kitchen and a recovery fellowship. They are in need of food preparers, servers and monetary donations.

Sincerely,

Michelle Propst
Phone / Text: 540-247-6627
189 Scarlet Oak Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25405

GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT



The Greater Washington District continues to work for the kingdom of God through its outreach ministries. We have been actively working in various areas in our local congregations, The Baltimore Annual, Conference's initiatives, as well as in global ministries through the United Methodist Women organization (UMW). GWD is fulfilling its UMW mission promise in the following ways:

The Greater Washington District had seven members from its District team to attend Mission u. Also Randall Memorial Church, Washington, DC had a youth attend Mission u, in Bethesda, Maryland from August 8-10, 2014. The district assembled approximately 200 table favors for the enrichment of the overall spirit of spiritual growth and outreach.

Many GWD churches are participating in prison ministries; some are knitting and crocheting Prayer Shawls for members of their congregations, children hospitals, nursing homes, senior citizen homes, and the sick and shut-in amongst us.

Also, GWD helped the Conference with its hospitality activity at Wesley Learning Center at Wesley Theological Seminary, for which we contributed approximately 200 assorted cookies.

Further, district churches have been creative in raising finances to meet their Conference pledges, while promoting the mission of United Methodist Women.

Additionally, GWD churches are planning their activities to include the training and execution for stopping Domestic Violence.

In the meantime, the Greater Washington District churches are incorporating many of the creative ideas they received from the United Methodist Women's Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, April 27, 2014, in the areas of fundraising, music ministries, and Bible study.

Approximately three fourth of GWD churches are actively participating in UMW and their own local churches back to school backpack projects.

Finally, we are working to "Fill the Void," (John 4:1-18; 39 NIV), poverty, and spiritual devastation.

Geraldine Whitley, President
Greater Washington District

WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT – PRESIDENT’S CORNER:



Several WED Mission Team members and members from the local units traveled to Louisville, Kentucky in April for Assembly! It was electrifying to see the thousands of United Methodist Women in attendance and ready for Holy Conferencing. We were especially blessed to have former First Lady Hillary Clinton present with us. The workshops overflowed and if you didn't get in early to a workshop, you missed out. It was an experience we will treasure forever!

On Saturday, May 17 at 9:00 a.m., the WED hosted its Annual Prayer Breakfast at Nottingham Myers UMC in Croom, MD. Over 100 women attended. Our focus was on prayers for our communities and our continued mission to women, children and youth. As it turned out, this was right in line with the Plenary on Prayer at Mission u.

Several members of the WED Mission Team and members of local units attended Mission u this year. All enjoyed the Plenary on Prayer and the studies on Disabilities and the Roma of Europe. We were blessed to sponsor three youth this year to attend Mission u! They had a blast! We know that our local units will go back and put mission in motion!

Now we look forward and encourage all who can to attend the Conference Annual Meeting in October and the WED Annual Meeting on October 18 at Queen's Chapel UMC in Beltsville, MD. Pastor Joan Jones of St. Edmonds in Chesapeake Beach will be the guest speaker. We invite all to attend and join us as we elect new officers for the District.

Most importantly, we are excited that we continue to work to grow and reorganize local units. We will conduct a Charter Ceremony for Alexandria Chapel UMC on Sunday, August 24 to recognize their newly formed local unit. Please come out and support this new unit as they get started! We also continue conversation with Bowie UMC about organizing a local unit and will meet with Lusby Charge in November about getting organized.

May the Love of Christ rest, rule and abide in you,

Nona Colbert, President

THE WINDOWS OF GOLD

There is a legend that has often been told of the boy who searched for the windows of Gold.

The beautiful windows he saw far away when he looked in the valley at sunrise each day.

And he yearned to go down to the valley below.

But he lived on a mountain that was covered with snow.

And he knew it would be a difficult trek,

But that was a journey he wanted to make.

So he planned by day and he dreamed by night

Of how he could reach the great shining Light . . .

And one golden morning when dawn broke through

And the valley sparkled with diamonds of dew.

He started to climb down the mountainside.

With the windows of Gold as his goal and his guide

He traveled all day and weary and worn,

With bleeding feet and clothes that were torn.

He entered the peaceful valley town.

Just as the golden sun went down.

But he seemed to have lost his "Guiding Light"

The windows were dark that had once been bright,

And hungry and tired and lonely and cold.

He cried, "Won't you show me The Windows of Gold?"

And a kind hand touched him and said "Behold"

"High on the mountain are the Windows of Gold"

For the sun going down in a great golden ball

Has burnished the windows of his cabin so small.

And the Kingdom of God with its great shining light.

Like the golden windows that shone so bright.

Is not a far distant place, somewhere.

It's as close to you as a silent prayer-

And your search for God will end and begin.

When you look for him and find him within.

By Helen S. Rice
Submitted by Gertrude White
Communications Coordinator, BWC-UMW

