



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

THE FLAME

THE BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

VOLUME IV

DECEMBER 2014

THE PRESIDENT

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:28-31, NIV)

Dear Ones,

Greetings. My favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28. Therefore, my faith and hope is in the Lord, for I believe God is good and God wants good for us. I believe that God has given the UMW this purpose:

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.

I pray that you all had a pleasant thanksgiving dinner and that you put another leaf on your tables to share your abundance with family and friends. As we fellowship with one another and share God's love with those near and dear to us, we are

Page 2

reminded of those families that have little or nothing. Remember that God loves them too. This Christmas, I encourage you to reach out and support your community in some new way. Bishop Matthews has asked congregations to support their local schools. Let's make a difference in their lives. Many of our UMW units are already supplying backpacks and school supplies; giving food for children to take home on the weekends; donating new or lightly used coats, gloves, and hats; reading to kindergarden classes; and helping out with after school homework programs.

As my four-year term of office as your Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women President has come to completion, I want you to know that it has been a pleasure being a part of your lives and getting to know so many kind and generous ladies. Thank you for supporting me in this wonderful opportunity to serve--what a great journey it has been! Any success has been a team effort as we work closely together to put Faith, Hope, and Love-into-Action, especially for women, children, and youth locally and globally, for God's glory.

Also, remember that we are counting on you to honor your pledges to mission and emptying your treasury, except for seed money, and sending your gifts to our Conference Treasurer Linda McNeil, 7705 Oxon Hill Rd., Oxon Hill, MD 20745, (301-839-5482). Also, our 150 Year Legacy Campaign is underway and I encourage you to help in keeping our UMW healthy and strong for years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Nancy M. Randers-Pehrson



Vice President



The United Methodist Women has come this far by faith leaning on the Lord, trusting in His Holy word and He has never failed us yet. Paul's words to Timothy have a fresh and contemporary meaning; I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within us. 11 Timothy 1:6 NEV. As United Methodist Women, we share our gifts of God with others through mission and outreach to women, children and youth. We have worked hard to carry out our purpose by making things happen in mission through various activities. Over the course of the past three years as Vice President, I engaged the Conference UMW in interactive and hands on mission to improve the quality of services to women, children and youth. *The purpose is to know God, and experience freedom as whole person through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative fellowship and expand the concepts of mission through the participation in the global ministries of the church, came alive through our efforts in the community.* We allowed our imagination and dreams through faith, hope, and love in action to address the social needs of women in the Conference as well as around the World. The BWC-UMW annual meeting now called Annual Celebration focused on:

- A. Mission Storytelling Nurturing Faith in the community. This included various local churches from the eight districts that made it their mission activities through skits, poster designs, mission rap, dance, music, arts/craft and prayer shawls. Women were encouraged to document their history.
- B. Interactive Hands on Mission. In this activity small groups of women made community visits to the Food Bank/Pantry, Family Shelter, Rescue Mission where they prepared hot meals and fed families, Pop in discussion sessions on Prison Ministry, Crisis Intervention, Frostburg University Nets Project – Imagine No Malaria, where cookies were baked to be sold by college students, Blessing of a house under reconstruction for needed families, women prayed for the community, ground, empty house and the neighborhood families.
- C. Mission Market Place. Women participated in hands on craft, how to create food garden, assembled health packet for Safe House of Hope which is a resident house for girls, whose vision is to prevent and identify victims of sex trafficking, and empower

Page 4

them to lead a healthy life. The biggest challenge in working with Human Trafficking Victims, a modern day slavery which ruins lives, is where can I put them to be safe and will they stay. It was reported that 49% girls were rescued from trafficking situation in Maryland during an 18-month period.

The Washington-Baltimore Conference UMW/UMM Collaboration to end Domestic Violence and Abuse, in partnership with the National Office of United Methodist Women in New York City and Faith Trust Institute in Seattle Washington received a training grant for the Imelda Gonzalez domestic Violence Initiative. The purpose of this pilot is to provide training for church teams in Domestic Violence and Abuse. Each team will be composed of two men, two women, and two youth 18/young adults. The one day training was held on Saturday, October 11, 2014, at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church. Forty people participated in the one day training event and also received certification. The goal is to prepare churches to be able to respond to Domestic Violence in the church community.

Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW Leadership training for District Officers is scheduled for November 22, 2014, at the conference center. This is a unique opportunity for leaders to receive teaching on their duties and responsibilities for the following officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Education, & Interpretation, Membership, Nurture & Outreach, Program Resources, Communication, Nominations & Language Coordinator). The torch for leadership will be passed on to the new officers in love.

As I transition into the role of president, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to you for taking a risk to explore new ways for doing mission opportunities. Thank you for your love support and cooperation as we continue to carry out the purpose for United Methodist Women under the banner of mission and service to women, children and youth around the world.

With Love and Respect,

Elizabeth M. Stemley, VP

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES



Come with Thanks

Dear Sisters in Christ!

Gosh, has it really been four years already? I can hardly believe that I've come to the end of my term as Secretary of Program Resources for the Conference UMW... time really does fly when you are having fun! But I'm leaving this position in very good hands as Pamela Randall will be stepping up to the task. I'm sure you will welcome her with open arms, as you welcomed me!

I want to thank all the District Program Resource Secretaries and other UMW sisters that I have worked with over these four years. I greatly appreciated your help at Mission u and at other Conference events to unpack, sort, organize and sell the books and materials (and packing up too.) You taught me that there are many ways to involve our sisters in the Reading Program, and to get the word out about the new books each year. I will miss the camaraderie of working with such wonderful women in this venue!

One last thing ... just want to emphasize that there are some great books out there for the 2015 Reading Program. Now is the time to begin immersing yourself within these amazing stories. Encourage your local units to order one book from each of the five categories to share among their members. You may also order many of these books for your Kindle, and there is always your local library.

So, dear friends, as I say my good-bye, I leave you with these three little words: "Read, Read, and Read!" 😊

Love and blessings,
Linda S. Yost

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, and OUTREACH COORDINATOR

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.” 1 Chronicles 16:34

Greetings to the women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference,

What a wonderful and exciting annual celebration the Baltimore-Washington United Methodist Women experienced this year! Thank you to the planning and coordination of the Central Maryland District United Methodist Women. We were able to fulfill our purpose of service, implement the required business, participate in great music, wonderful fellowship and enjoy delicious meals. If you were not there, please plan to put the UMW annual celebration on your schedule for October 2015.

At the celebration Membership was pleased to acknowledge the following new and reactivated units: Emory UMC, Mt. Calvary UMC, New Hope Fellowship, Alexandria Chapel UMC, and two churches in Bermuda: Marsden First UMC and Smith UMC. Congratulations to all of these women.

All UMW UNITS are reminded about two upcoming dates:

December 30, 2014 - *COUNT and RECORD the NUMBER of WOMEN in your UNIT*

January 31, 2015 - *By this Date, SEND the COUNT to your DISTRICT MISSION TEAM (the MNO or the PRESIDENT)*

As I complete my term as Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator for the Baltimore-Washington Conference, I thank each and every woman of the conference for the honor of serving on the Conference United Methodist Women Mission Team. It has been a pleasure to meet, learn and work with so many spiritual, purposeful, and talented women.

Thank you to the District Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinators who have worked so faithfully and diligently with helping to initiate and reactivate units. They have tirelessly worked with servicing our membership, collecting and reporting information and participating as active members of their district mission teams. The Baltimore-Washington UMW gives praise to God for your support, time and participation. Appreciation is extended to: Joyce Dean, Gladys Pace, Marti Femi, Mercy Arkorful, Andrea Ross, Daphne Hurd, Alice Collins, Adella Waddell, and Wanda Shumaker.

Wishing God's blessings for Daphne Hurd who will be serving as the Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator beginning January 2015.

Grace and joy,

W. Jean Jackson

wbjackson@att.net

Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women



ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT



Dear Sisters in Christ,

It has been a pleasure serving as the president of the Annapolis, United Methodist Women. I have grown spiritually, emotional, and stronger in the rights for women, youth and children. I have a better understanding and commitment of the Mission of the United Methodist Women. As president of the Annapolis District, we have reached out to so many of the churches visited and engaged all the county. I will continue to support and engage in the events of the Mission team.

I attended training in Tennessee to learn about the 150th Celebrations that will take place in 2019. I look forward to working with this team to keep building on the shoulders of our former mothers. They had a vision that keeps us going. So it is time for us to allow others to stand on our shoulders. As United Methodist Women we are the ones to continue with this God given Mission.

Daisy Farmer, President
Annapolis District



BALTIMORE METRO VOICE

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

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

Mark 7:27-28 He said to her, “*Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.*” But she answered him, “*Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.*”

Whose table will you supply food for women, children and youth this Thanksgiving and the other days to follow?

All praises be to God the Almighty. The BMD UMW continues to be the hands, feet, voices and resources for performing God's will.

Points of interest from the Baltimore Metropolitan District:

- Annual Fall Meeting
- Our meeting was held at Cherry Hill UMC, Saturday, October 11, 2014. Their hospitality was exceptional.
- The attendance was rewarding of 95 new, young and the “regulars.” Gifts of appreciation were presented to the “first timers.”
- We sold our district buttons.
- Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, BMD District Superintendent, shared words of encouragement.
- Colleen Cates, Northeast Jurisdiction Secretary, President of Susanna Wesley House Board highlighted the operation and standings of the Susanna House.
- Offering went to SWH.

Local organizations contributed:

- layette kits – distributed to a local homeless shelter
- health kits and prayer shawls - presented at the UMW Conference Annual Celebration

- underwear garments - delivered for the prison ministry
- 500 + pillowcase dresses - for the girls in Haiti
- Local organizations shared their fantastic year long mission work.
- The 2015 slate of Officers/Coordinators was completed with all officer/coordinators slots filled.

Rewards and Activities:

Local organizations received certificates in the following categories:

- 5 Star, Program Resources and Mission Today
- members attended SWH Luncheon
- members participated in Domestic Violence Training
- team members updated and completed a draft for the Standing Rules and Procedures

Congratulations to Daphne Hurd being elected to Membership, Nurture and Outreach on the Conference level.

Preparations are in the making for the 2015 events and meeting dates.

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT MAKE IT HAPPEN !

Face book address: Baltimore Metropolitan District United Methodist Women

Take away thought:

“Make room in our hearts to do the will of God.”

Submitted by:

Janice D. Mason, President
Baltimore Metropolitan District

GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT

The Greater Washington District has much to celebrate. We are thankful to God that GWD Presidents and Team Members are fired up and committed to mission projects both on the District and Conference levels. We have regularly attended scheduled meeting and other events planned and supported by the Baltimore Washington Conference; as well as events sponsored by other UMW affiliated organizations. The Greater Washington District has routinely supported our sister churches in the Greater Washington Baltimore area.

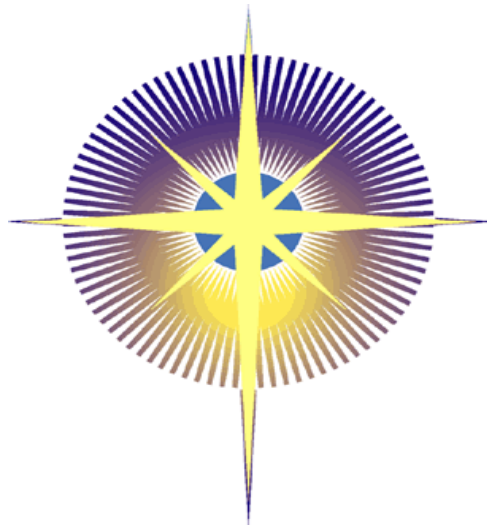
The Greater Washington District Annual Meeting held October 18, 2014, was a huge success. The meeting's success was due mostly to the great expressions of hospitality GWD received from the Good Hope Union United Methodist Church, 14680 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring Maryland 20905. The day began with a delightful breakfast prepared and served by the Good Hope Union Methodist Women Unit. The meeting began with a spirit-filled prayer by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Stacey Cole Wilson. This beginning resulted in a productive meeting that greatly exceeded the expectations of the meeting.

The highlight of the meeting was the following: Reading Program had nine churches participating and produced 27 readers in a variety of categories. Certificates were presented to "Five Star Units," recognition of "Mission Today Units," recognition of "90 + members," and the recognition of "Members 40 Years and Under." Recognition pins were presented to those members who retired in 2013 and 2014. Adding a deeper meaning to the meeting was the dance ministry presented by the Faith in Motion Liturgical Dancers of A. P. Shaw (Brighter Day Ministries) under the directorship of Emma Mayo. Additionally, approximately 20 UMW members and guest received door prizes donated by GWD team members. We offer a hardy "thank you" to Good Hope Union United Methodist Church!!!

GWD churches continue to participate in Prison Ministries, Domestic Violence; some are knitting and crocheting Prayer Shawls for members of their congregations, the children hospital, nursing homes, senior citizens homes, and the sick and shut-ins. Also, GWD's churches are developing programs to actively support the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. In an effort to continue the connectional features of the Greater Washington District, we are updating our Membership Directory for 2015. In this effort Unit presidents are encouraged to submit their information for the new directory to Geraldine Whitley by E-mail or US mail to her by December 30, 2014. Don't forget to shred the old directory to protect the confidentiality of members.

Further, district churches have been creative in raising finances to meet their Conference pledges, while promoting the mission of women and children through the United Methodist Women Organization, Inc. As a result, we continue to seek God's message for our mission through Bible study, spiritual enrichment and discernment, and mission projects and programs. Finally, Greater Washington District is working to "Fill the Void," (John 4:1-18; 39 NIV) between poverty, and spiritual devastation.

Submitted by Geraldine Whitley
President, Greater Washington District



WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT

The end of the year is always a time for reflection and this year it is especially true since this is the last article I will write as President of the best District in the Conference. Four years ago when I took office, I thought my vision would be to encourage younger women to get involved. Little did I know God had other plans. The Washington East District has experienced growth in local units through new unit formations and reorganizations at a steady pace over the past four years. We all are so proud of that accomplishment and all of the talent and passion it has brought to the District.

The WED held its Annual Meeting on October 18 at Queen's Chapel in Beltsville, MD. We were pleased to have our Conference President, Nancy Randers-Pehrson, join us for our celebration. Pastor Joan Jones of St. Edmonds gave a rousing message. Awards were handed out and we had a marvelous time.

New Officers are: Susan Howes (Smithville), President; Diane Shorts (Westphalia), Vice President; Stephanie Willett (Ebenezer Lanham), Spiritual Growth; Rosetta Daniels (Grace) Membership, Nurture and Outreach; Alice Jackson (Ebenezer), Education and Interpretation. We want to thank Joyce Dean (La Plata) and Arlene Grose (St. Paul Oxon Hill) for their years of service in the trenches. I want to personally thank each and every one from the local units to the Conference for their support and friendship. I know you will give the same support and friendship to Susan as she leads the District to great heights.

We are still working to establish new units and will meet with Lusby Charge on November 24. We thank New Hope Fellowship, Alexandria Chapel and the big Mount C (Mount Calvary) for their new units this year. We give God all the glory for the increase.

We encourage all new leaders to attend Conference Leadership Training on November 22 at the Conference Center. The WED will hold its Local Officer Training on January 17 at a location to be announced shortly.

From the WED – Have a blessed and Merry Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Nona Colbert





A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Lord, in this holy Christmas season may we draw nearer to you. How wise you were to reveal yourself in the presence of a little baby, the Christ child. You demonstrated the power and the depth of your love for each of us. Thank you for showing us that Christmas begins in the heart, and for the love that it teaches. Help us now to keep the light of the Christmas message burning brightly all year through. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference
United Methodist Women's Leadership Team