



THE FLAME

THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

VOLUME I

MARCH 2015



THE PRESIDENT

“Greetings to you my beloved sisters in Christ, on this wonderful day that the Lord has made.”

I am delighted that through God’s grace and power, I am honored to serve you as the President for the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women (BWC UMW). I am a member of historic Sharp Street United Methodist Church the mother church of African Methodism in the United States established in 1787. I have had the honor and privilege to serve over 22 years in leadership positions with UMW in the following levels: local church president, district president/vice president and conference president/vice president. I also, hold a Master’s Degree in Social Work (MSW) from the University of New York at Buffalo, New York, as well as, experienced in human service, administration, planning, community organization, Christian education, outreach, service to others, and mission. The work of the UMW is focused on the mission set for us by Jesus the Christ, as expressed so profoundly through the Purpose and lived through our vision since our founding nearly 150 years ago.

The Book of Discipline of the UMC, 2012 states: “That the national office for UMW provides resources and opportunities for members to grow spiritually, develop as leaders, serve and work to improve the lives of women, children and youth nationally and internationally through advocacy and compassionate service.” In addition, Romans 12:5-6 states: “For just as we have

The President (Cont'd.)

many members in one body and all the members do not have the same functions, so we, who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members with one another.” We as UMW have been blessed with numerous spiritual gifts that differ according to the graces that God has given us, to be used to carry out the great commission of making disciples in Jesus’ Name.

The Conference theme for this year is “**Embracing Missions and Outreach through Love in Action.**” Our vision for UMW personifies that we embalm women children and youth in mission activities that will strengthen and improve the quality of their lives through education, resources and connections. As UMW, we will reach out into the community and as leaders we will go to places of need to bring a Christian presence to the people of God at home and around the world.

The 2015 Planning Retreat held on January 3, 2015 was filled with excitement, innovation and high expectation for a new beginning in missions and education. We were energized by the Purpose of UMW and equally committed to serve others with passion.

Sumayya Coleman, the lead Consultant for Share Time Wisely, as well as for the Domestic Violence and Abuse Initiative presented as a vigorous and dynamic speaker. The topic of the training workshop was “Building Community through Welcoming Leadership.” The Scripture referenced Ephesians 2:1-22; Micah 6:8 and Romans 15:3-14. The points of interest were: Leadership **Focuses** on community (which is a message of hope to serve others to the glory of God); Leadership **Works** (The Lord has showed UMW what is good by His requirement for us to demonstrate acts of love, kindness and mercy, while walking humbly with our God). Leadership **Reconciles** through strong management characteristics and Leadership **Builds** dedicated UMW eager to help others grow. The messages laid the foundation for our missions work as the body of Christ.

The Leadership Team broke up into small groups and a program guide was used to discuss and develop goals and objectives for five social issues that will be the foundation for our missions work for the next two years. The five social issues discussed were: Domestic Violence and Abuse; Church and People with Disabilities; Health and Maternal Health; Charter for Racial Justice and the 150th Anniversary Celebration. It is our expectation that the Conference, District and Local Churches will work together harmoniously with the implementation of these vitally important social issues.

The Leadership Team, composed of Conference, District and the Local Churches will endeavor to work collaboratively in providing services to women, children and youth.

The items required for the February 2015 planning meeting are as follows:

- A written action plan for your Mission area of work for Conference and District Officers.

The President (Cont'd.)

- Assessment of your District, i.e. the number of Churches; active and Inactive UMW Leadership Teams; New UMW Units and UMW Clusters. Additionally, an updated UMW District Directory with phones numbers and email addresses.
- Written progress reports on your area of work. (three copies for the President, VP and Secretary).
- For the Districts who have not already done so, develop and organize Local Unit Domestic Violence Training Teams. The expected due date for the development of Local Unit Domestic Violence Training Teams will be May 2015.
- The Local Unit Domestic Violence Training Teams shall consist of two women, two men and two youth, age 18 or above and/or a Youth leader with membership from across the District.

Please note that the Leadership Officers are expected to attend and participate in the activities of the UMW Conference and districts, such as Mission u, Charter For Racial Justice Seminar, Planning/Finance Committee Meetings and the development of Domestic Violence Teams. Our goal is to make visits to the districts and local churches in teams of two people. In preparation for our next meeting follow the suggestion above.

I look forward to working with you as a team on behalf of women, children and youth. Together, we can and will transform the world to make it a better place for women, children and youth. Thank you for your service.

Peace and Blessing.

Elizabeth M. Stemley, President BWC-UMW
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God has a purpose for each one us, a work for each one to do,
a place for each one to fill, an influence for each one to exert,
a likeness to His dear Son for each one to manifest.

(Arthur C.A. Hall (b.1847))

VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ,

It is a snowy, cold day, which is expected in February, but I am yearning for spring to arrive! God has a way of rewarding us for patience, however, so I will wait and watch for God's plan to unfold in its proper time, God's time.

As your new Conference Vice President, I wanted to provide you with a summary of the Conference UMW Planning Retreat held on January 3, 2015. It was a delight to interact with all of you who were in attendance at our Retreat, and it is my hope that each District will be able to implement at least one action item from each category listed below during the current year.

Small Group Planning:

1. Domestic Violence and Abuse

- Use actions in Pamphlet
- UMW/UMM work together to offer District training
- Include pastors, Bishop, Conference Council
- Have small group discussions/testimonies in churches/local units
- Alert Districts about resources available: hot lines, crisis centers, State of MD Domestic Violence Abuse, connections with schools, Faith Trust Institute, community resource inventory map, other resources

2. 150th Anniversary - 2019

How do we continue our legacy and build membership?

- Involve more young people and follow their lead
- Tell our story at District and Conference events and be accountable
- Express constant passion and commitment
- Present program to church youth groups
- Target civic groups – include them

3. The Church and People with Disabilities

- Mobility – accessibility
- Encourage churches to conduct an accessibility audit
- Signing/amplified hearing devices in churches for those with hearing challenges
- Churches can partner with their UMW, UMM and Trustees
- Set a time limit of approximately 90 days for all churches to complete audit
- Use the book by Bishop Peggy Johnson as a resource
- DVD – “A Place for All”

Encourage all Districts to have at least one copy to loan to local UMW organizations.

Vice President (Cont'd.)

4. U.N. Initiative – Health and Maternal Health

- Districts can locate local agencies and resources, e.g., Care Net, Social Services, CASA
- Encourage pastors/youth leaders to conduct sex education classes for their youth groups
- Ask what sex education materials are available from the United Methodist Church
- Districts can offer special programs/guest speakers within the churches
- Ask for donations of items for new mothers at District and Conference meetings

5. Charter for Racial Justice – a living document

- Need to know UMW history
- Educate members via seminars and programs
- Focus on Biblical interpretations
- Spiritual focus
- Encourage youth to obtain community service hours in an economic justice venue.
- Racism – What is it and how does it affect us?
- Charter for Racial Justice Seminar: May 15-17, 2015, Blackstone, VA
 - ❖ Will develop action plans for the local church
 - ❖ Will be presented at General Conference in 2016
- Need to be informed and know what to say to young people
- Have Charter for Racial Justice pamphlets distributed to each congregation
 - ❖ Encourage pastors to expound upon the Charter

Blessings on your day!

Linda S. Yost, Vice President
B-W Conference United Methodist Women
ljyost@verizon.net



EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR

“...so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:5.

Hello, I am Ann Price and I am both delighted and honored to have the privilege of working with you again, this time as Education and Interpretation Coordinator.

United Methodist Women, with its membership of 800,000 women and budget of approximately \$20 million, is an organization in mission. And, you and I are a part of it. Imagine that!

Our basic orientation is found in our PURPOSE, which states “shall be a *community of women*.” As United Methodist Women, we are in *community* as we work to accomplish our mission around the world. Being in *community* allows us to support each other internally as we train, nurture one another, establish supportive

fellowships, and work together to “expand concepts of mission.” In *community*, we are working also toward a common goal, to reach out to, and support women, children, and youth, especially those at the margins of society, locally, nationally, and globally, that is, around the world.

Because we are in *community*, we know that when a family is hungry and children don’t have enough food, the situation is the same in other locations around the world as it is here. When a woman, child, or youth suffers violence or abuse, the impact on those in some lonely place on another continent is the same as it is here. When women suffer repeated acts of discrimination and the inability to advance within a society, the frustration experienced in an isolated culture of an underdeveloped nation is the same as it is here. As an organization in *community*, we live to reach out to such women, youth, and children. And, we accomplish our work as a connectional entity within the United Methodist Church through our local units, districts, conferences, jurisdictions, and the United Methodist Women’s National Organization.

As we move toward our upcoming United Methodist Women’s 150th Anniversary, let us begin to focus on more unique and creative ways to be in *community*, and to expand “concepts of mission” in accordance with our PURPOSE. I challenge us at all levels of our Conference to become more “visionary” as we continue to contemplate innovative ways to be in mission for United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church. We can do this as we focus on our own United Methodist Women’s history, looking back on our local organization’s beginnings and forward toward the future, as well. We will be listening to hear and watching to see just how this unfolds as we move toward 2019, and that historical number, 150!

Education and Education (Cont'd.)

Did You Know:

- (1) That the designation "Leadership Team" (or Executive Committee) has replaced the use of "Mission Team" when we refer to teams of elected officers at UMW local unit, district and conference levels? (*United Methodist Women Handbook 2013-2016: Constitution and Bylaws of the United Methodist Women in the Local Church, District and Conference, Pages 97-140.*) Check it out!
- (2) That the designation "United Methodist Women" has replaced use of "Women's Division" when referring to our National Office? (*The Book of Discipline, 2012, ¶1322, United Methodist Women, page 628*).

Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21

Ann Price
Education and Interpretation Coordinator
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SECRETARY

Good Secretarial Characteristics

Remember district secretaries, the Constitution and Bylaws states that our job is to keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the district organization for the leadership team and give notice of the meetings. We serve as custodian of all records and official documents. We are also to keep an accurate roll of local units and elected leaders. (United Methodist Handbook 2013-2016, page 115)

Former Conference secretary, Eddimae Tisdale, shared the following good secretarial characteristics:

- Be methodical, with a good eye for detail; be well organized, with an orderly mind
- Bring objectivity to the proceedings; deal promptly with correspondence
- Be able to take accurate notes at meetings
- Make sure members receive all the necessary material
- Bring the necessary materials to the meeting
- Work well with the president
- Ensure quorum is met for meetings
- Have knowledge or experience of committee procedures

The role of a good secretary can be the key to how a good organization functions!

Rita Green, Secretary
ritamgreen@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

My prayer is that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace! 1 Corinthians 1:3

Happy New Year, Grace, Peace and Blessings to all!

I am excited to be appointed the Membership Nurture and Outreach (MNO) Coordinator for this great Conference. I am here to serve you. An initial priority as the new Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator is to meet with District MNO Officers to combine our efforts in building, retaining, nurturing and re-connecting with active and non-active units.

As the United Methodist Women approach 150 years of service to women, children, and youth in 2019, it is even more important that we continue to nurture, equip, and grow our units. I encourage MNO's to reach out to the active and in-active groups to find out what they need in order to fulfill our purpose and to continue to thrive.

In preparation for the 150th anniversary, we will be gathering historical information from Districts in our Conference, more information to follow in future issues.

Assembly 2014 was a great success. There were many opportunities to engage in workshops, video presentations, exhibits and discussions to support our purpose and aid in creating a new spirit of renewal. I highly recommend viewing membership workshops presented at Assembly 2014. This is a great resource focused on providing information on growing and nurturing the United Methodist Women as we strive to continue developing, revitalizing, renewing and reconnecting with units in our districts. Visit the following website <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/assembly/workshops>. A number of membership resources are available on the UMW website at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/member-resources>.

District census information is due by April 30, 2015. I have emailed a copy of the District Coordinators Membership Worksheet that the UMW National Office requires to the BWC District Coordinators. District Coordinators please submit the Membership Worksheet for District Leaders 2014 by email to daphnelhurd@icloud.com or mail to **Daphne L. Hurd, 3707 Yolando Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, and phone number 410-235-0123.**

The National Office will be offering distance learning events quarterly to MNO Officers on the local and district levels. Please submit your name and contact information including email address if you are interested. As more information becomes available you will be notified. Again, distance learning events will be done quarterly (June, October, and December). Please have your information in by March 28, 2015.

Peace and Joy as we work to fulfill our Purpose,

Daphne L. Hurd
Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
daphnelhurd@icloud.com

SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR

I just attended a wonderfully inspiring meeting at Westphalia UMC in Upper Marlborough, organized by Crystal Pinkney, their UMW Social Action Coordinator. Crystal has planned a two part program on Advocacy for MD House Bill 0020 on increasing the penalties for Elder Abuse. The first part on Saturday used a skit to illustrate elder abuse we should be looking out for; the March meeting will follow up with Delegate Glenn speaking about the bill and how we can advocate for it.

Crystal's program is a good example for all of us. What social action programs have your units planned for this year? Greater Washington District has planned their Legislative Action Day on Feb. 28 at Woodside UMC on the theme of "Answering the Call for Justice: Making Bible Based Advocacy Part of Your Ministry" with a speaker from WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

Hopefully, you are all spreading the word about the Charter for Racial Justice Seminar May 15-17 in Blackstone, VA. Registration is now open. Even if you can't attend, all units can plan a program using the Diversity Today Unit Program Charter for Racial Justice Implementation Tool, to familiarize your members with the Charter. This was distributed to all of us last year by Ann Price.

I am sorry that we did not have a Conference Legislative Action Day this year. I was still in Nicaragua when we should have started working on it with the new chair of General Board of Church and Society last fall. With change-over in that position and Advocacy representative, we need to work early and hard to make Legislative Action Day 2016 as successful as in past years. Several of you have told me how much you enjoyed last year's "Day" and we will be sure to have one next year.

In the meantime, take a look at the UMW web site on environmental issues "13 Steps to Sustainability." It provides an excellent guideline to make all of our meetings environmentally sustainable. And if you are not recycling in your church, talk to your Board of Trustees about starting. It's important.

Please stay in touch and let me know what social action items are most important to the units in your Districts. I would love to hear from you. My prayers go with you in all of the work that you do to further God's Kingdom here on earth.

Judy Smith
Social Action Coordinator
smarmayor@aol.com

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES



Greetings,

As your new Secretary of Program Resources, it will be an honor to work with each and every one of you. The reading program is designed to encourage us as United Methodist Women. It allows us to use our imagination, broaden our horizons, and to obtain spiritual growth.

“How Is It with Your Soul?”- was our Bible study book from Mission u. If you have not had the chance to read this, then you should find the time to do so. This book will challenge you to become a more vibrant disciple of Christ. It focuses on these four verbs - pray, learn, mentor, and transform. This book is awesome.

In the upcoming newsletters I will continue to share more books and reading materials, in hopes that they will help balance, challenge, and enlighten you. I would like to hear from you also about the books that you are reading, so that we can share them with one another.

Peace & Blessings,
Pamela Randall
Pamelarandall53@yahoo.com

BALTIMORE PARISH WORK CONFERENCE PROJECT

Barbara Daniel, President of Baltimore Parish Work, is also holding the office of Treasurer. The previous Treasurer, Christine Paylor, served for over twenty years and has resigned from this office.

The Baltimore Parish Work Project provides a unique opportunity through financial aid to enhance day camps and summer enrichment programs for use and provides support to feeding programs, such as Manna House and Jacob's Well.

Until further notice, all communications can be addressed to me as follows:

Barbara Daniel
3801 Schnaper Drive, Apartment #204
Randallstown, MD 21133
410-922-1235

Thank you.
Barbara Daniel

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Greetings to my Sisters in Christ:

United Methodist Women as Communicators

Communications is a ministry that shares the church's story in ways that move people toward becoming disciples for Christ. By being a communicator, you are following the ways of the Bible. The following verses from Ephesians include "communicator" as one of the gifts to the church/organization.

"He is the one who gave gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, Until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13)

As a communicator I am a storyteller and story listener, helping to equip people with information, insight, and ways to respond in order to do God's work. I also provide the mission team and local congregations with means to tell their own stories. Also, I think of the ways communicators can tell the story of the church, creating readiness and nudging the church community toward receptive insight. Another goal is to spread the good news to everyone about the United Methodist Women's purpose of expanding concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



Gertrude White
Communications Coordinator- BWC-UMC
trudytil@aol.com

NOMINATIONS CHAIRPERSON



A Message from the Nominations Chairperson

Greetings to our Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women!

It is my pleasure to serve as your Conference Nominations Chairperson. I welcome to the committee the class of 2018: Tangela Terry, Sylvia Olney, Shirley Whitehurst and Romcesa Estep. We are excited about the opportunity to serve you in this capacity.

Leadership is critical to the success and future of our organization. Leadership roles require a commitment of time, energy, and effort. Prior experience as a leader is not a prerequisite for any position at the conference level. All that is needed is the willingness and the desire to learn and be effective in your role.

The Nominations Committee is tasked with the awesome responsibility of identifying a diverse group of women with the skills and abilities to provide leadership at the conference level in support of districts and local units. Just as Jesus prepares those whom He has called, United Methodist Women prepares its members for leadership roles through various leadership days at the local, district, conference, and national levels. So, consider moving out of your comfort zone - there is nothing to fear!

Currently, we are seeking a Language Coordinator and two members to serve on the Charter for Racial Justice Committee. We need your help to fill these positions. If you have a burning desire, or would like to recommend someone to be a part of the Conference Leadership Team, please contact me or a member of the committee as follows:

Jeanette Thomas: jeanettethomas1@verizon.net

Ieesha Gillis: ieesha.gillis@gmail.com

Verna Gaskins: verna536@aol.com

Tangela Terry: mst2136@yahoo.com

Sylvia Olney: sylviaolney@gmail.com

Shirley Whitehurst: skwhist@comcast.net

Romcesa Estep: theunrulies907@aol.com

Yours in Christ,

Jeanette V. Thomas, Nominations Chair

Jeanettethomas1@verizon.net

FROM THE ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT:

Greetings UMW Sisters:

Happy New Year! As the newly elected president of the Annapolis District, I would like to greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that your 2015 has begun with renewed faith, hope and love in action.

Many thanks to our Annapolis Cluster Leaders for an excellent turnout at our annual training. One hundred women attended and received the training that they needed to be leaders in our UMW. Thanks to everyone who helped with this training day.

Our Annual Prayer Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 18th. Save the date as details will follow. The Annapolis District is also planning a youth Back to School Bash picnic on Saturday, August 8th and a Fall Retreat on Saturday, November 7th. Again, please save these dates- more information will follow.

The Annapolis District United Methodist Women will continue to be servants of God by reaching out to women, children and youth.

Blessings and love,

Janice Crowe, President
Janice.a.crowe@comcast.net

BALTIMORE METRO VOICE

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

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

Mark 9: 7-8 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud came a voice, "This is my son, the Beloved, listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

The Baltimore Metropolitan District will continue "to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." It is our intention to be involved in God's mission to extend ourselves to those who are in need by continuing to be his hands and feet.

We had a successful Mini Mission and Leadership Training event at Loch Raven UMC Saturday, January 31, 2015. Our guest minister, Rev. Johnsie Cogman, facilitated the subject on "The Roma of Europe" and Ms. Denise Fitzgerald instructed the session on "The Church and People with Disabilities." Colleen Cates, Secretary of Northeast Jurisdiction, presented the district members with an update on Susannah Wesley House. District buttons were sold for a dollar each during registration. First timers (young women included) at this BMD UMW event were gifted with jar openers.

Baltimore Metropolitan District (Cont'd.)

From our presentations and discussions, the district members expressed interests, concerns and questions about additional domestic violence and abuse information. Extreme efforts will be brought forth to inform them of this most important matter.

Action plans for the Baltimore Metropolitan District includes providing toiletries for prison ministry to satisfy our Purpose. We are extremely proud of our BMD UMW continuous facebook page directed by a young woman.

Janice D. Mason, President
jldmason@aol.com

BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT "The Year of the Child"

In Luke 10:27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" This was the scripture focus of the 2014 Baltimore Suburban District Annual Meeting.

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Baltimore Suburban District United Methodist Women was held at Mount Olive United Methodist Church and focused on the theme, "Working Together for the Transformation of the World." Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Director of Church and Community Engagement at the Board of Child Care, gave an enlightening speech about the current challenges the Board of Child Care's residents and staff are facing.

Welcome Kits were assembled by the Baltimore Suburban District members after the meeting to give to the new residents who come to the Board of Child Care.



The Year of the Child will be the focus of the 2015 Spring Prayer Breakfast, which will be held at the Board of Child Care on April 25, 2015. Attendees will tour the campus and see the Welcome Kits we put together at the Annual meeting at work! We will also receive an update about

Baltimore Suburban District (Cont'd.)

the ongoing needs of the residents and staff at the Board of Child Care. Scarves and weighted blankets for the residents are currently items of need at the Board of Child Care. Join us for an exciting time of mission exploration!

Shown: (l to r) Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Heidi Eber, & Cindy Thomas assembling Welcome Kits.

In 2015 the Baltimore Suburban District will:

- **Connect** with the Global UMW & local units by creating a Social Media presence on Facebook and continue online communication.
- **Foster** our local units and their accomplishments by recognizing all of their work for the Purpose of UMW.
- **Educate** ourselves and our units by exploring UMW mission topics through our hands-on mission work and study.
- **Support** children in need by making our 2015 mission focus the Year of the Child.
- **Inspire** the local units by informing them of the exciting things happening in mission at the Conference and District levels of UMW.

“ARE YOU EXCITED?!!” This is the question Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW President Elizabeth Stemley asked me when she called me about becoming the new President of the Baltimore Suburban District.

Looking forward to serving in 2015, the Baltimore Suburban District is **EXCITED!**

Be Blessed,

Maury Thackston
Baltimore Suburban District President
mtston1@earthlink.net

CUMBERLAND-HAGERSTOWN DISTRICT

Cumberland-Hagerstown District United Methodist Women have been striving to fulfill our purpose through our individual units' mission outreach and ministry efforts. The fall meeting took place at Otterbein UMC in Hagerstown on October 18, 2014. Two Western Region Resources, Sherri Koob and Barbara Suffecool, presented a very interesting and inspiring program that focused on what they could help us to accomplish in our local churches. Five-star and Mission Today units were recognized as were those who participated in the Reading Program.

Cumberland-Hagerstown District (Cont'd.)

Our district was deeply saddened by the untimely death of Gayle Yost on November 26, 2014. Gayle had served the district as the Spiritual Growth coordinator. She had also attended Mission u the past two summers. Many of you may remember her solo at the closing worship this summer.

Our spring Prayer Breakfast will be held on May 2, 2015 at New Covenant UMC in Cumberland. Pastor Ann Atkins will lead us using the book How Is It With Your Soul. Looking forward to fall, our Fall Celebration will be held on October 17 in the Hancock-Berkeley Springs area. Still need to confirm the exact location.

Vivian Moore, President
Cumberland-Hagerstown District
vcmoore@atlanticbb.net

FREDERICK DISTRICT UMW

Hello Sisters,

I hope that this newsletter finds you in high spirits and good health. I trust that your holidays were wonderful and full of love and memories. The calendar says it's February and I believe it is time to get to work and be in missions and be in service to Our Lord and Savior.

I love you, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalms 18:1-2 NIV

I am so pleased to announce that we have four officers in place for the next 4 years. I believe that the winds of change are blowing in the Frederick District; we had at least 40 attending the Annual District Meeting in October. Here's a big thank you to Deer Park UMW for hosting, well done!

If you would like to host a Prayer Breakfast, Annual Fall Meeting or any of our events, our leadership team will assist you in getting it done. With this in mind, we have a couple events on our schedule this year.

- April 11, 2015, Hopehill, UMW will host a tea party fundraiser for missions, beginning at 2pm.
- April 25, 2015, Centennial Memorial will host a service in missions, with Second Street and Hope from 2-4pm.

Frederick District (Cont'd.)

- June 6, 2015, Annual Prayer Breakfast, will be at Centennial Memorial UMC from 10am-12pm
- July, we will be hosting an ice cream social. TBA
- October 3, 2015, Hopehill will host our District Annual Fall Meeting, from 1-3pm.

These events **need RSVP's** to plan appropriately. A future newsletter will include more information of the ice cream social and Annual Fall meeting.

The deadline date for those getting awards (5-Star, Mission Today, Diversity Today and Reading Program) is on September 26, 2015.

Another opportunity for you to fellowship with us is the Mission u event on July 31-August 2. I will send registration flyers out when they are available. The topics for 2015 are:

- Spiritual Growth: Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God
- Geographic: Latin America: People and Faith
- Issue Study: The Church and People with Disabilities
- Children and Youth Study: Latin America: Places, Cultures and Faith

Our Treasurer Rita Brand and I attended the UMW U.N. Seminar on November 23-26 in NYC. It was so wonderful to fellowship with our conference and our topic was Women and Maternal Health. It was so enlightening. You're all more than welcome to join in again this year. I am informed that the Baltimore-Washington Conference will take an initiative to spread this teaching throughout the districts. This will be similar to the Domestic Violence project last October.

On another note the Frederick District would like to create a new cookbook. I announce this now so that at the Prayer Breakfast we can vote on this. We have done the research and ran the numbers, now it will be up to you in May. Your recipes will be honored and shared, I know that there are some good cooks out there, more information will follow.

While the other officers are busy with their duties and planning events, I have been in the throes of getting membership under control. I know times are hard and some are tired but you must remember who we glorify when we meet and the people we serve as it states in our Purpose:

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

Frederick District (Cont'd)

As President, I want to know your unit, I want to hear your triumphs and know your concerns. I would like to place non-functional units and/or participants with an active unit. I have not forgotten you.

I have been setting up the new website that we voted on at the Annual District Meeting in October. This is a great venue for those that have email and units that have "techies." This website will not replace the Mission Bells, but it will have a lot of updates and most current announcements. The website is www.frederickdistrictumw.com

The other issue we voted on at the Fall Meeting is the postage meter and service. My first use will be this newsletter, so we are hoping for success that it will save us additional expenses and travel.

If you need me I am at 540-247-6627, 189 Scarlet Oak Drive, Martinsburg, WV 25405. mlpropst1@yahoo.com. Thanks for sharing your time with me; I will see you in April!!

Michelle Propst, President
Mlpropst1@yahoo.com



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "**Whom shall I send**, and who will go for us?"
And I said, Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8

GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT

The Greater Washington District continues to be excited about its work in keeping with the United Methodist Women Organization's purpose and mission on behalf of women and children. This enthusiasm is the force behind the Greater Washington's work for the kingdom of God through its ministries outside of the walls of the local church. Therefore, GWD continues to be strong and vibrant in its overall Mission work. In its efforts to be spiritually led and Holy Spirit inspired to be inclusive and strong for the work of the kingdom of God, GWD has been actively working in various ministries of the local churches, the Baltimore-Washington's program initiatives as well as local and global ministries, through the United Methodist Women Organization (UMW). By these means GWD is fulfilling its UMW mission promise in the following ways:

The Greater Washington District has several members that have signed up to attend the Washington Region Leadership Day 2015, on March 14, 2015, at Blake High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. Also, several members have embarked on their leadership journey by registering for Leadership Development Day 2015 in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, April 10-12, 2015.

Closer to home, however, GWD is getting excited about the upcoming Epworth House Project Committee's Luncheon, on March 28, 2015. Nevertheless, it goes without saying that the 2015 Legislative Seminar on February 28, 2015, at the Silver Spring United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, is one of the highlights of our mission projects. We look forward to a successful event. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome, Federal Policy Analyst for WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Washington, DC.

Additionally, many GWD churches continue to participate in prison ministries; some are knitting and crocheting Prayer Shawls for members of their congregations, children hospital, nursing homes, senior citizens homes, and the sick and shut in. Specifically, Christ United Methodist Church SW, Washington, DC, has a visiting All Occasion Greeting Card ministry for the sick and shut in. Hughes Memorial, Washington, DC, prepares a Fourth Tuesday Night Supper for "our CAP kids and their instructors." CAP is an afterschool program that helps children with their homework. Albright Memorial United Methodist Church, Washington, DC, presented a spiritual tribute commemorating the many forms of spiritual growth, and social action achievements and struggles through the arts.

Furthermore, many United Methodist Women are working to educate and prevent acts of Domestic Violence through their GWD Units. Specifically, on January 22, 2015, the United Methodist Women of Metropolitan Memorial/St. Luke's/Wesley United Methodist Church, Washington, DC, co-sponsored an event consisting of involvement from Jana's Campaign an organization whose mission is to educate both men and women to change the culture and reduce gender and relationship violence. The speaker was Curt Brungardt, and the

Greater Washington District (Cont'd.)

American University's Peer Educators for the Elimination of Relationship and Sexual Violence (PEERS) provided basic training about the warning signs of relationship violence, at this event. Approximately 50 young women and men were in attendance.

Furthermore, district churches have been creative in raising finances to meet their conference pledges, while promoting the mission of United Methodist Women. Likewise, GWD churches are using their training from BWC conferences and workshops to enhance and develop their mission outreach on behalf of women and children. As we learn we grow in wisdom and understanding for Jesus Christ (Proverbs 1:5 NIV).

Also, many of the Greater Washington District presidents are **still** incorporating many of the creative ideas they learned from the United Methodist Women's Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, April 27, 2014, especially in the areas of fundraising, music ministries, arts and crafts, and Bible study. As noted, once learned this knowledge is never forgotten. This knowledge continues to provide nurture and sustain growth and development for spiritual outreach into the community and into the world.

In addition, approximately three- fourths of GWD churches are actively participating in UMW and their own local churches' back- to-school backpack projects.

Furthermore, Emory United Methodist Church in Washington, DC, has crafted ministries that provide for hands- on ministries through its oversight of the Transitional House for the respective families living there. It operates and maintain a food pantry for those in need, provides companionship and supportive care to sick, rehabilitating women in its congregation, who are suffering from various ailments, and reaches out and supports Ebola - orphaned children in Sierra Leone.

Finally, we are working to "Fill the Void" of poverty and spiritual devastation (John 4:1-18; 39 NIV) at home and throughout the world (Matthew 28:29 NIV), through wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Submitted by Geraldine Whitley
President, Greater Washington District
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It is the very business of your life
to cultivate every faculty you have,
in the belief that He has given them to you
that you may become His
instruments for usefulness.

(Theophilus Parsons (1797-1882))

WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT

The WED had our first meeting of the year at Alexandra Chapel UMW which recently became a new unit. All of the members of the Leadership Team except for our Membership Nurture and Outreach person, have taken on four to six UMW units that they will be responsible for keeping the lines of communication open. This way each unit will have a one-on-one relationship with the Washington East District team. Already this has helped with training attendance for our Leadership training and getting the information that is necessary for the Census Report and the Directory information.

Our Membership Nurture and Outreach representative, Rosetta Daniels, will spend her time communicating with the other 13 churches that do not have UMW's so that we can help them jump start theirs.

We have several members of our Leadership Team attending the Charter for Racial Justice in May. We still do have two vacancies for our Nominating Committee which we are working on.

Susan Howes, President
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NEW VOLUNTEER
POSSIBILITIES

**Baltimore-Washington Conference Officers
United Methodist Women**

**Elizabeth Mitchell Stemley
President**

**Linda S. Yost
Vice President**

**Rita M. Green
Secretary**

**Linda McNeil
Treasurer**

**Zilpha Pinkney
Spiritual Growth Coordinator**

**Judy Smith
Social Action Coordinator**

**Ann Price
Education & Interpretation Coordinator**

**Daphne Hurd
Membership Nurture & Outreach**

**Pamela Randall
Secretary of Program Resources**

**Gertrude White
Communications Coordinator**

**Jeanette Thomas
Nominations Chairperson**

PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP
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BECAUSE HE LIVES, WE TOO SHALL LIVE

*In this restless world of struggle
It is very hard to find
Answers to the questions
That comes daily to our mind-
We cannot see the future,
What's beyond it still unknown,
For the secret of God's Kingdom
Still belongs to Him alone—
But He granted us salvation
When His Son was crucified
For life became immortal
Because our Savior died-
And to know life is unending
And God's love is endless, too,
Makes each daily task we face
Much easier to do-
For our Saviour's Resurrection
Was God's way of telling men
That in Christ we are eternal
And in Him we live again.*

Helen Steiner Rice

**May you have a Blessed Easter
The BWC-UMW Leadership Team**

