



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

THE FLAME

THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

VOLUME II

JUNE 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As women in the kingdom of God we carry out the UMW Purpose through giving service to women, youth and children. We are moving forward in Mission with the community.

The leadership team is working hard to energize and transform the lives of women, children and youth through mission opportunities. Our major initiatives are to bring hope, justice and love in action to the people we serve. The BWC-UMW initiatives are in concert with National United Methodist Women's Organization for social justice. As a Conference and the Districts we will focus on the following:

- 150 Anniversary Celebrations
- Charter for Racial Justice
- Maternal Health
- People with Disabilities
- Domestic Violence and abuse

Your action plans/reports should reflect your efforts in addressing these required issues to meet the needs of women, children and youth within the community.

Health care products/health kits is the Conference project for 2015 which includes products for women, children, and youth. Please package supplies in heavy duty freezer food storage zip bags. These products will be distributed to those in need in each

President (Cont'd.)

district. I am asking the district presidents to identify coordinator(s) to pick and deliver supplies in their district after the annual celebration. Thank you for showing compassion in love in action.

United Methodist Women please wear your red scarves with our logo and be seated together at the BW Annual Conference. I will have a section blocked off if possible.

BWC UMW supports the Mission u Youth school in its effort to increase attendances. Therefore, through a scholarship of grace each district has been awarded \$300. 00 to be used toward registration. I hope and pray that you have already made previsions in your 2015 budget as well as 2016 to cover the cost for youth to participate.

Mission Today United Checklist Update is essential to our mission work in the BWC-UMW. We want to be consistent with the expectations and guidelines across the conference on the Mission Today Criteria. To meet this important need the Mission Today criteria has been revised. Kindly, make adjustments in your current effort to ensure that your district as well as local churches use the revised criteria. This revision will appear in Part II of this Flame edition as an attachment to the Education and Interpretation Coordinator's article. We appreciate your cooperation.

BWC/UMM Collaboration Partnership on Domestic Violence and Abuse Fourth Annual Luncheon will be held at the BWC Annual Meeting on May 29, 2015 from 12:00 through 1:15 pm. We will celebrate the accomplishments made by two Domestic Violence Church Teams and the Partnership. The overall goal is to have teams in each district.

BWC UMW will show radical hospitality to our visitors from Russia. The gathering was held on May 22, 2015 at Epworth UMC, 3337 Saint Luke Lane, from 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. We welcomed Elena Melnikove, President for UMW in Russia and Alexandra Pererve, Superintendent of the South Black Soil District. The invitation was extended to come and share your mission experiences with our visitors.

Our purpose is to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church through connectional relationships.

May God continue to bless your leadership and ministry in Jesus' name.

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not
liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."
Galatians 5:13

Elizabeth M. Stemley, President
Estemley1190@comcast.net

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GREETINGS FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT AND THE BWC 150th ANNIVERSARY LEGACY COMMITTEE!

It was a dark and stormy night in Boston on that fateful day March 23, 1869, nearly 150 years ago... This was the beginning of our story as United Methodist Women... are you willing and able to keep our story alive for another 150 years? We will never know our UMW sisters in that far future, but we can ensure that they have the means to continue our work in mission for women, children and youth. See below for some ideas...

LEGACY FUND

The UMW will be celebrating 150 years of mission work in the year 2019 by preparing for the next 150. A Legacy Fund has been created which will lay the financial foundation for future generations of United Methodist Women.

Consider the following as part of YOUR legacy:

- **Legacy Fund Gifts**: Donations to this endowment fund allow more Mission Giving dollars to go straight to mission. Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org
- **Planned Giving** on umwgift.org: United Methodist Women members are encouraged to leave a legacy through wills or estate planning. Leave a legacy through wills or estate planning.
- **Major Giving**: Members who have the means to make significant contributions to The Legacy Fund can structure these gifts over the next three to five years. Call 212-870-3743 to discuss options.

The Anniversary Legacy Team will provide information to the District Presidents to help get the message to the local churches about the 150th Celebration. Local units can begin now to have special fundraising events for the Legacy Fund.

The Team will attend and provide information and updates at all conference and districts meetings and events.

All local units are encouraged to gather the History of their UMW to be compiled in a Historical Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Journal. Units can also focus on specific members, past or present, who contributed in a special way to the local unit. Proceeds from the sale of this Journal will go to the Legacy Fund.

Vice President (Cont'd.)

The information will be used to train and energize all women both members and non-members.

We will hold a United Methodist Women's Ball in November 2017 to celebrate and honor those included in the Journal.

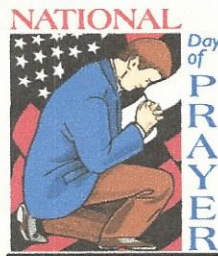
The Districts that have signed on will incorporate events in their Annual meeting to include business as well as social events to inspire the women to join and to give.

We are forming a young adult team to plan an event that will attract the younger generation. The team will reach out to members and non-members for ideas. We will reach out to the young women who participated in Limitless.

Definitely some exciting times are upon us! Let's all work together to not only celebrate 150 years in mission but to extend our legacy into the future.

May God bless this venture.

Linda S. Yost
Vice President
LJYost@verizon.net



SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

May 7, 2015 was the National Day of Prayer. What is the National Day of Prayer? It is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." Each year since the President has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

The modern law formalizing its annual observance was enacted and passed in 1952 with a bill initiated by Mr. Conrad Hilton and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas. It stated that the President of the United States was to set aside an appropriate day each year, other than Sunday as a National Day of Prayer.

In 1972 a National Prayer Committee was created and it is a non-profit evangelical Christian organization. The National Day of Prayer Task Force is a project of this Committee. In 1988 a bill was introduced to Congress which fixed the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday of May each year. The concept of the National Day of Prayer is a multi-faith event which recognizes the extensive diversity of religious expression throughout the United States.

Spiritual Growth (Cont'd.)

The United Methodist Women have celebrated the National Day of Prayer with Church Women United. Next year, National Day of Prayer will be observed on May 5, 2016. As the Spiritual Growth coordinator, I will find out where there will be observances and publish them in the Flame. We may also set up services in our local churches or our clusters. Below is a prayer written by Dr. Jack Graham, the 2015 Honorary Chairman of the Committee that was to be read simultaneously throughout our nation at noon on May 7, 2015.

Heavenly Father, we come to You in the Name that is above every name—Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our hearts cry out to You.

Knowing that You are a prayer-answering, faithful God—the One we trust in times like these—we ask that You renew our spirits, revive our churches, and heal our land.

We repent of our sins and ask for Your grace and power to save us. Hear our cry, oh God, and pour out Your Spirit upon us that we may walk in obedience to Your Word.

We are desperate for Your tender mercies. We are broken and humbled before You.

Forgive us, and in the power of Your great love, lift us up to live in Your righteousness.

We pray for our beloved nation. May we repent and return to You and be a light to the nations. And we pray for our leaders and ask that You give them wisdom and faith to follow You.

Preserve and protect us, for You are our refuge and only hope.

Deliver us from all fears except to fear You, and may we courageously stand in the Truth that sets us free.

We pray with expectant faith and grateful hearts. In Jesus' name, our Savior. Amen.

– 2015 National Prayer by Dr. Jack Graham

Zilpha Pinkney
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
zapinkney@yahoo.com

SOCIAL ACTION REPORT

One of the two main actions we have been involved in during the last two months is the Global Media Monitoring Project, which Denise Fitzgerald, Social Action Coordinator from Baltimore Metropolitan, and I participated in. This was one day, March 25, when all kinds of media all over the world were monitored to ascertain what role women played in the media. I monitored *The Washington Post* and Denise did the internet. It was very time-consuming, as we had to analyze three articles, but also very interesting. This was done by request of the Communications office of UMW New York.

The second project we are presently involved in is the "End Family Detention" campaign, in which we are partnering with Justice for Our Neighbors, as well as other denominations working on immigration rights. There are a number of ways we can participate: sign a petition, send postcards, show a video, and write our congress persons. I have requested the video and postcards to use both at my church and at Mission u. I urge you all to go to the website, www.endfamilydetention.org for more information and to sign the petition. Some of us also participated in the Mother's Day Thunderclap, in which all social media messages went to the President at the same time on Mother's Day. This is all in an effort to close down the three facilities which are now holding thousands of mothers and children, two in Texas, one in Pennsylvania.

I am also pleased to report that all of the Social Action District Coordinators or Presidents reported on their activities in the last year so that I could make a report for our Conference to the New York office.

One program which I would like to highlight was reported to me by Cindy Smith-Waugh, from Central Maryland District. At their recent prayer breakfast, Cindy introduced four advocacy efforts: Nepal, Immigration, Baltimore City and Peace Building, and... The Environment. She had readings on each of these issues and then the women made multi-colored prayer flags using the issues and strung them up on lines. I thought this was a brilliant idea and one that other Districts or units could replicate.

I am looking forward to the Charter for Racial Justice Seminar and helping the Committee where I can. Hope to see you there.

Working with you to help bring about God's kingdom of love and justice,

Judy Smith
Social Action Coordinator
smarmayor@aol.com



Education and Interpretation Coordinator

“... Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said,
“Here am I; send me!” Isaiah 6:8

Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2015: About 1,000 persons participated in this dynamic gathering April 17-20, 2015, in Crystal City, VA. Sung OK Lee and Mollie Vickery of national office United Methodist Women hosted a display table! This year's theme was "Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation." The EAD Legislative "Ask" requested an end to both mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent/low level offenders, and unjust immigration bed quotas supporting mass immigrant detentions. Impressive speakers and preachers covered plenary and panel sessions on incarceration and the church's response to the war on drugs and systems of exploitation. Participants engaged these topics in general and advocacy sessions, and State and denominational gatherings.

Statistics: In 2012, we had about 2.2 million persons in US prisons/jails. People of color are more likely to be arrested, once arrested to be convicted, and then to receive longer prison sentences. There are many opportunities for our mission involvement in issues associated with prison incarcerations and family detentions. Also, be alert for announcements on EAD 2016. Remember, this is a local event for most of us!

Mission Today Checklist:

1. **Updated (May 2015) Checklist:** A copy is attached. You will note that the Checklist is standardized for use by all participating United Methodist Women local units within our Conference. We know you will agree that the use of the same Checklist by all will help to ensure a Mission Today process that is fair for all participants!
2. **New Timelines for Checklist Submission:**
September 1, 2015 - Each UMW local unit is to forward its completed Mission Today Checklist to their District's Education and Interpretation Coordinator by September 1.
September 15, 2015 - Each District Education and Interpretation Coordinator is to forward the District's Mission Today Unit Report to the Conference Education and Interpretation Coordinator by September 15.
3. **Mission Today Competition for Districts:** This is new! See the attached flyer for details. We will see you in the Winners' Circle at Conference United Methodist Women Annual Celebration 2015!

In His service,

Ann Price
Education and Interpretation Coordinator
pricefa@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

CENSUS

Membership Census information is due. As you know, the United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women. We are a part of approximately 800,000 members whose purpose and mission is to know God, develop leaders and advocate for justice. Each year we are asked to collect membership data. This is one of the many strengths that the UMW has to serve women and children as advocates around the world. However, collecting census information has been and continues to be a daunting task because often units do not want to report data for whatever reason. But it is critical that we take time and count members. Please take the time to send information to the Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator of your District. Sometimes waiting to hear from local units in your district is frustrating. I want to encourage District Coordinators to be patient, have faith and press on. We are planting seeds and waiting for the harvest we know will come. I am so blessed to be your Membership Coordinator. I would love to do whatever I can to help your District in whatever needs you have. Our Conference team is always there for you, so please feel free to call anyone of us. "Remember we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." Philippians 4:13

NEW MEMBERSHIP RESOURCE

The Welcoming Toolkits is a new tool from National UMW that will assist in growing membership on the local level. This membership development initiative strives to involve local, district, conference and national levels, all working together, to create a welcoming space focused on potential members' interests, sharing United Methodist Women's work and building relationships. This toolkit is provided to guide you to radically welcome women in your community. We will be discussing The Welcoming Toolkit at Mission u, however if you want to read it now, it is on the www.unitedmethodistwomen.org website under membership resources. There is also a video of the group that worked on the pilot project for your viewing. United Methodist Women is committed to finding new ways to invite and involve women in our nearly 150-year-old organization at all levels of the organization.

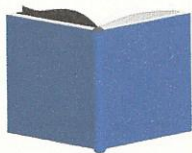
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

The LDD in Lake Junaluska was intense and informative. Some of the workshops I attended as MNO are: **Standing in our Faith**--United Methodist Women has a long and powerful tradition of working for justice, particularly on what are often divisive issues. Participants will come away understanding the theological and disciplinary basis for United Methodist Women's work on important but difficult issues. **Consensus-Building for Decision-Making**--The ABC's of consensus-building and how we can use it in United Methodist Women. **Creating Cross-Cultural Relationships** United Methodist Women strives to be a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-lingual organization. **Flexible Structures and Leadership Roles**--United Methodist Women's organizational structure provides flexible ways of working, but clear roles and responsibilities help to keep the team focused.; and, **Membership Development: Welcome Events** A new resource that guides local units in hosting welcome/engagement events to attract women presently not involved in a United Methodist Women unit or circle.

Peace and Joy as we work toward our Purpose,

Daphne L. Hurd
Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator
daphnehurd@icloud.com

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES



THE READING PROGRAM FLYER CONTEST ENTER NOW!!!

The Program Reading Program Contest will offer an opportunity for everyone to display their imagination, creativity, and artistic side. The purpose of this flyer is to encourage others to get involved in reading, get the youth involved, reach out to those in the community, and to promote unity in our churches, schools, and with those that are sick and home-bound.

Flyers should include the following categories:

- Social Action
- Education for Mission
- Leadership Development
- Nurturing for Community
- Spiritual Growth

There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Winners are to be chosen and announced at Mission u. Winners will be presented at the BW-UMW Annual Conference Celebration to be held on October 24, 2015.

The flyer is to be printed on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper, and mailed in an 8 1/2 x 11 enveloped marked – “DO NOT BEND.”

Mail to:

Pamela Randall
1785 Horace Ward Road
Owings, MD 20736

Deadline: July 6, 2015

Name, address, telephone number, and email address should be on the back of the flyer.

The Reading Program is online at – [umwonline.org/groups/reading program](http://umwonline.org/groups/reading%20program)

Pamela Randall
Secretary of Program Resources
Pamelarandall53@yahoo.com

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

"WALKING WORTHY"

As women, our walk in the Lord should have the following characteristics:

1. Our walk should be PURPOSEFUL. Philippians 2:12-13 reveals that no matter what happens in your life you need to have a purpose for living. We may get "off track," but God's purposes in our lives do not change. We are still able to accomplish that purpose if we choose to get "back on track."
2. Our walk can also be PROGRESSIVE. Philippians 1:6 says. "He who began a good work in me shall perform it until the day of the Lord." When God heals us in the difficult areas of our lives many times it is not done at one time. It is usually progressive just like peeling an onion. There are many layers. Sometimes we get disappointed when the Lord has to keep healing us in a certain area. We think we know how long our healing should take. But usually it is quite the contrary. Sometimes we have a "limp" in our walk, and that usually indicates that there is no peace in that area of our lives. He is able to heal and restore every area of your life. As our healing progresses our "limp" lessens. Our healing becomes more evident by our walk.
3. Our walk should also be PLEASING to the Lord. Hebrews 11:6 states "And without faith it is impossible to please Him for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Many of us have a negative interpretation of what it means to please God. We think that we have to work and earn God's love. We believe the more we do for God the more He will accept us and we will thus please the Lord by our walk. Yet it is quite the opposite. If we did nothing else but take time and love and worship the Lord he would be pleased. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all of your soul and with all of your might." You do not have to sing, teach, preach, etc. to please the Lord. If you do nothing else but love and worship the Lord He would be pleased. Colossians 1:10 says "... walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to please Him in all respects..."

What kind of walk are you walking? Do you have a limp in your walk with the Lord? He is able to heal every part of your being so that people will know that you are the daughter of the most High God. You want those around you to say, "Look at her. She has His walk." "She is truly walking in the vocation that God has called her to walk." "Let's start walking worthy of the vocation where He has called us!"

---Rev. Diane Hemphill

Submitted by Gertrude White
Communications Coordinator
trudytil@aol.com

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DISTRICT REPORTS

FROM THE ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT:

Dear UMW Sisters in Christ:

The Annapolis District UMW is on the move in 2015. In addition to our Officer Training meeting in January, our Spring Prayer Breakfast was held on April 18 at First UMC of Laurel. Many thanks to their UMW President, Ingrid Loukota, and the UMW women for hosting this wonderful event. Our speaker, Rev. Iantha Brown, gave us an excellent presentation on Human Trafficking. About 100 women attended and enjoyed a delicious breakfast, worship, insight into the topic of the day and Christian fellowship. Plus, we collected over 400 items for our ongoing Baby Shower, which is held at both our spring and fall meetings each year. These baby items were donated to the Emergency Baby Pantry at Food Link and will be distributed to mothers in need in Anne Arundel County.

The second 2015 edition of our Annapolis District newsletter, *The Bay Breeze*, was published and distributed in early May. Many thanks to all who submitted articles and to our Communications Coordinator, Emma Krouser, for putting together this beautiful newsletter.

Twelve UMW members from the Annapolis District attended the Charter for Racial Justice seminar May 15-17 at the Blackstone United Methodist Conference Center in Blackstone, VA. This true learning experience offered ways to get involved in implementing our Charter through Bible studies, worship, programs, workshops, displays, issues and action ideas. We enjoyed being at this beautiful campus and came home with a new resolution to live the Charter and promote Racial Justice more than ever.

Plans are underway to get our Annapolis District scholarship program, the Alice Bryant Scholarship Fund, active again. Judy Sparks, our Education & Interpretation Coordinator, is doing the legwork necessary to reinstitute this program. Money is in a special bank account and available to give scholarships but none have been awarded since 2011.

Many members of the Annapolis District are planning to attend Mission U this summer. Some of us are planning to sponsor teenagers to attend the Youth Program at the school.

Annapolis District (Cont'd.)

The Annapolis District Annual meeting is going to be held at Centenary UMC on October 10. Our district is also hosting the Baltimore-Washington Conference Annual Celebration & Officer Training on October 24 at Severna UMC. Plans are underway for both of these meetings.

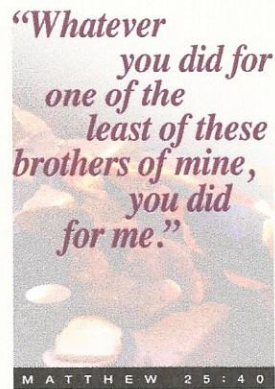
Finally, please join us for our district retreat on Saturday, November 7 at West River Retreat Center in Churchton, MD. Put this important date on your calendar today. Details will be included in the next edition of *The Bay Breeze*.

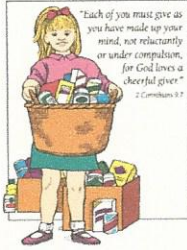
OUTWITTED

They drew a circle that shut me out
Heretic, rebel – a thing to flout
But love and I had the wit to win,
We drew a circle that took them in.

Edwin Markham (1852-1940)

Blessings to all,
Janice Crowe, President, Annapolis District
janice.a.crowe@comcast.net





BALTIMORE METRO VOICE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

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.

The Social Action Coordinator and I participated in the National Social Action Survey. We will also be attending The Charter for Racial Justice in Blackstone, VA.

We had a successful Spring event at Grace United Methodist Church that was designed to be a prayerfully, fun and relaxing venue to include the younger UMW. It was our first Spring Tea and Fashion Show with the theme “Learning Together for Transformation of the World.” The participants and commentator were representatives of local UMW organizations and churches. Most exciting was the participation of the young children in this event. Our “seasoned ladies,” younger ladies and members of the District Leadership Team were models also. Intercessory prayers were rendered for support of those in prison.

BMD’s Facebook is very much up-to-date with district and conference notices directed by a young UMW.

Our Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator is making contact with a prison coordinator for the purpose of creating a communication/collaboration with him to determine the specific needs of support from our district women.

An action plan for the Baltimore Metropolitan District includes providing toiletries for prison ministry to satisfy our **Purpose**. Reading books for the elementary/middle schools will also be collected. Preparations are being made for our Annual Fall Meeting anticipating the BMD District Superintendent as our speaker at Emmarts UMC.

Plans are in the making for the BWC Annual Fall Meeting in our district. For the 2019 UMW Legacy event, ideas are being shared and taken into consideration.

Facebook address: Baltimore Metropolitan District United Methodist Women Face Book

God’s Blessings to All,

Janice D. Mason, President
jldmason@aol.com

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

BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT "The Year of the Child"

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

The Year of the Child was the focus of the 2015 Spring Prayer Breakfast, which was held at the Board of Child Care on April 25, 2015. Most of the 68 attendees toured the campus and saw the Welcome Kits we put together at the 2014 Annual meeting at work! Conference Vice President Linda Yost spoke to the District about the 150th Anniversary Legacy Fund. It was also wonderful to have Baltimore Metropolitan District President Janice Mason in attendance. We also received an update about the ongoing needs of the residents and staff at the Board of Child Care by Dr. Stacey Nickerson. The Board of Child Care is currently in need of Fleece blankets, men's unscented toiletries, Christian bookmarks and decorations and paper goods for summer holiday celebrations. We had a wonderful District gathering and an exciting day of mission exploration!



Shown: A tour of the Board of Child Care Campus was given to the Baltimore Suburban District UMW at the Spring Prayer Breakfast held on April 25, 2015.

Baltimore Suburban District Vice President Carolyn Nichols attended the Charter for Racial Justice Seminar in Blackstone, Virginia, May 15-17, 2015. We are eager to learn about the United Methodist Women's role in diversity issues and how we can apply "Faith, Hope and Love in Action" to the issue of racial justice.

There will be a Leadership Development Day for Local Unit Officers at Edgewood Greenspring UMC in Lutherville, MD on June 6, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Carolyn Nichols will give us a report on what she learned at the Charter for Racial Justice Seminar.

I called all of the Local Unit Presidents and asked them how the District could help them. They were all very happy to receive my call and shared with me all of the exciting things they are doing in UMW mission work. I was so impressed with our District membership and all they are doing to help women and children.

Be Blessed,

**Maury Thackston, President
Baltimore Suburban District
mtston1@earthlink.net**

REPORT FROM 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 on the local church level.

As a result, Greater Washington District churches are actively engaged in the following ministries: domestic violence, prison ministries, back pack initiatives, earth stewardship issues, racial justice issues, immigration issues, maternal and parenting classes, Bible classes, prayer breakfasts where we are praying for a variety of concerns, addressing various issues of the homelessness [food, clothing, and shelter], and recycling and congregational health ministries, etc.

Additionally, The Greater Washington District has several members that have signed up to attend the Charter for Racial Justice Seminar, May 15-17, 2015.

Closer to home, many GWD churches continue to knit and crochet Prayer Shawls for members of their congregations. The Prayer Shawl ministry has grown to include: children hospitals, nursing homes, senior citizens homes, the sick and shut in orphanages, and military installations.

Also, district churches have been creative in raising finances through rummage and yard sales to meet their conference pledges, while promoting the mission of United Methodist Women.

Finally, the Greater Washington District has been very busy 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 growth and understanding.

Submitted by Geraldine Whitley
President, Greater Washington District
jacksonwhitley@aol.com

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT



This article is a little late as it is Memorial Day – the unofficial beginning of summer. Several of our units have been busy with planning and enjoying United Methodist Women’s Day this spring. Our Directory has been sent out to all the units as well.

We had our annual Prayer Breakfast on May 16 at Brooks United Methodist Church where they provided us with a scrumptious meal. Our guest speaker was Rev Dr. Iantha Q. Brown, Pastor of Refuge Church Ministries II in Hanover, MD. This powerful message was essential to all as our UMW goal this year is to “Welcome All.” We look forward to hearing more from this dynamic speaker next year as Zilpha Pinkney, our Spiritual Growth Coordinator, plans a retreat in April with her as our guest speaker. You won’t want to miss it.

Since the Washington East District covers such a vast area, we plan to have our next meeting as a conference call. We each plan to have all the information that we will need for this “meeting” so that it will not be too time consuming and will be as productive as if we drove sometimes an hour to get to the location and save travel expenses. We had several members attend the Charter for Racial Justice and I can’t wait to hear about what transpired. I was also excited to see on Facebook where Sabrina White and Esther Barkat represented the United Methodist Woman at the White House to talk about ending detention centers in the USA. We do make a difference.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Mission u at the end of July. I have not been about to attend for several years because I am so involved with Vacation Bible School at my church. However, this year I am able to attend and as younger members of our congregation stepped up to help, hopefully I will not miss anymore Mission u.

Susan Howes, President
Washington East District
showes@chesapeake.net