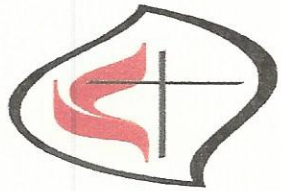


THE FLAME



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

VOLUME III

SEPTEMBER 2015



THE PRESIDENT



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

The United Methodist Women focuses on mission initiatives providing opportunities for spiritual growth; equipping women to serve as leaders; providing transformative educational experiences for women, children, and youth. The BWC- UMW theme for 2015 is "**Embracing Mission and Outreach through Love in Action.**" Our vision for United Methodist Women personified that we empower women, children and youths through mission activities that will strengthen and improve the quality of their lives. As UMW, we will reach out to the local church and community to encourage women of all ages to participate in mission who will shape what hope looks like in the world.

As a conference we have committed to the following social justice issues and initiatives: **Charter for Racial Justice-Voter Registration, Maternal Health, The Church and People with Disabilities, Domestic Violence/Abuse Awareness and the 150th Anniversary/Legacy Fund.** All districts are asked to embrace as many of these initiatives as possible in partnership with their local church community organizations. We would appreciate having pictures, posters of activities which reflect the districts' actions to be placed on an informational table at the Conference UMW Annual Celebration.

UMW Annual Celebration on Saturday, October 24, 2015, will be hosted by the Annapolis District United Methodist Women. This will be a time to have great conversations among women from across the conference to share their mission stories, experiences, networking and fellowship as sisters in the spirit of the Lord. We must reach out and connect with younger women to get them to step up

The President (Cont'd.)

and fight against injustice issues for women, children and youth. The guest speaker Donna Akuamoah, Executive Secretary for International Ministries at the United Methodist Women's National Office, will address Maternal Health, which is one of the BWC UMW initiatives. The hands-on activity will be the assembling of materials for health care kits. This project is one example of what you can do in your district and local churches. In preparation for the Conference UMW Annual Celebration, all District officers are asked to submit their reports to their Conference counterpart by September 1, 2015. In turn, all Conference officers are asked to submit the following reports (2016 budget, five star units, reading program, mission today, nomination report, memorials for 2015 and worship service) by **September 14, 2015** to Gertrude White, Communications Coordinator, with an email copy to Linda Yost and myself.

Officers' training will be held after lunch. Conference officers, kindly prepare a teaching folder for your area of responsibility. I would like to have a copy of your folder package to be stored in UMW conference office for future reference and documentation. Please include the following: agenda, devotion, attendance sheet, and job description from the National UMW web site, evaluation form for feedback, conference initiatives and handouts which support mission and justice issues.

The Baltimore Washington Conference United Methodist Church – United Methodist Women hosted special guests from the Russian Partnership. Elena Melnikova, President for Russian UMW and Alexander-Pererva, District Superintendent were greeted at Dulles Airport with flowers from the Conference President. The BWC UMW held a luncheon at Epworth Chapel UMC in Baltimore City, where UMW and UMM engaged in conversation around issues of social justice, mission and outreach. The itinerary for their visit included: overnight accommodations arranged in the homes of members on the Russian Committee and the Radisson at Cross Keys Hotel (sponsored by BWC UMW). They toured sites and spoke at churches with Russian congregations: Wesley Seminary; Washington, DC; Baltimore Conference Center; Baltimore-Washington Conference Annual Session; Trinity UMC, Prince Frederick, MD; Asbury UMC, Epworth UMC, Cockeysville, MD; Solomon's UMC; Lovely Lane UMC; Old Otterbein UMC; Sharp Street UMC; and Fort McHenry.

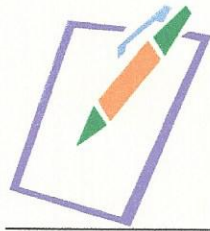
United Methodist Women's National Seminar at the University of Illinois in Chicago, July 29, 2015 – August 2, 2015. The theme was "Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy" and the scripture was Luke 19:41-44. Over 200 women from across the country explored faith-based responses to critical social justice issues. The National Seminar is an opportunity for United Methodist Women to explore God's action in the current moment in the world and to talk about how to respond. The workshops were: Climate Change and Environmental Justice; Criminalization and Racial Justice; Gender, Wealth Inequality and Economic Justice; and Maternal and Child Health. The interactive public events were Mass Incarceration Town Hall; Public Rally on Mass Incarceration and a justice action demonstration at Cook County Hospital to fight against closing the hospital that provides maternal health services on behalf of women, children and youth.

The President (Cont'd.)

The Blanche Powell Memorial United Nations Seminar 2016 for the BWC UMW will focus on Mass Incarceration and Social Justice. The BWC UMW will include this issue as a new initiative for social justice in 2016.

Thank you for your continued support on behalf of women, children and youth.

Elizabeth M. Stemley, President
estemley1190@comcast.net



ATTENTION TO THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON UMW MISSION TEAM

All information to be included in the BWC-UMW Annual Celebration Program Booklet must be submitted to me by **September 14**.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Kindly submit your updated List of Officers to me by **December 1, 2015** for the 2016 Conference Phone Directory. Kindly follow the template used by the Annapolis District, page 8, of current Conference Telephone Directory. Rockwell font, 12 pitch or Verdana, 11 pitch is preferred.

Also, District Calendar information for 2016 is due by **September 14** to Linda Yost for compilation.

Thanks to everyone.

Gertrude White
Communications Coordinator
301-656-9116
trudytil@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is always a great blessing to see my UMW sisters at Mission u. We had fun learning, talking, greeting one another and of course eating! The Deaf Choir was fantastic as well as our Mission u choir, Plenary Leader, teachers and staff.

Now for a review of the initiatives/projects that you all have worked on throughout 2015 so far:

Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness – Our guest speaker at our January retreat, Sumayyah Coleman, brought us a message about Leadership: 1) Leadership FOCUSES on Community; 2) Leadership WORKS. UMW has been created for good works; 3) Leadership RECONCILES. We have been reconciled and as leaders, we must work to be reconcilers; 4) Leadership BUILDS. When we focus on the Master Builder, we can build/create great things. Our Domestic Violence & Abuse Awareness Collaborative Luncheon with the United Methodist Men was held in May at Annual Conference, and brought new awareness to those who attended regarding domestic abuse. We continue to hope that more teams will be formed within the Districts and local churches will become more involved with this issue.

150th Anniversary Celebration and Legacy Fund - A committee has been formed and has had conference calls and meeting to determine ways to celebrate the legacy of United Methodist Women and the 150th Anniversary. Will be holding a dinner for pastors this fall, beginning in the Washington East District, to educate and inform them of our mission and Purpose. Some of our young college women are interested in starting units at their colleges. All members who support the PURPOSE should also support the 150 legacy fund by donating.

Church and People with Disabilities – Have continued to encourage churches to conduct a church audit regarding accessibility, and to get their Trustees involved in making needed changes. Have available the DVD – “A Place for All”. Rev. Sandy Johnson taught a well-attended class on this subject at Mission u in July, 2015. A number of churches within the Conference have initiated changes to provide better accessibility for those who need it.

Health and Maternal Health – This issue will be addressed by guest speaker, Donna Akuamoah, at the BW Conf. UMW Annual Celebration in October. Items for maternal health kits will be collected for the Anne Arundel County Healthy Start Program. At least one other District will be collecting items for maternal health kits for a program within its area

Charter for Racial Justice - The Baltimore-Washington Conference and Virginia Conference jointly sponsored a Charter for Racial Justice Seminar in May, 2015, which resulted in our Conference conducting voter registration in three different Districts (Baltimore Suburban, Baltimore Metropolitan, and Annapolis) in August. Our Conference also was instrumental in creating a draft proposal for a National Advocacy Day which was sent to UMW National Office in June, 2105, for consideration.

The Scholarship Committee reviewed a number of college applications during the month of June. Thanks to the Trustees' generous gift and to our local units' donations, the Committee was able to give an \$800.00 scholarship to each of 15 applicants, totaling \$12,000.00.

Thank you all for putting our Faith, Hope and Love into Action! Blessings!

Linda S. Yost, Vice President
B-W Conference UMW
Ljyost@verizon.net

SECRETARY

It was a pleasure to meet with 10 secretaries who attended training at Mission u. There were four district and six local secretaries.

We went over: Duties and Responsibilities, Minute Taking Skills, Criteria for Taking Minutes and Helpful Resources. I was asked to provide a list of the district secretaries and their contact information. I have provided it below.

Annapolis: Erma Ellecamp; 8547 Jenkins Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122; eellecamp@gmail.com, 410.255.0458

Baltimore Metropolitan: Bronwyn Wheeler; 3529 Meadowside Dr., Gwynn Oak, MD 21207; Bronie1@verizon.net, 410.298.3289

Baltimore Suburban: Connie Wiegel; 1218 N. Carroll St., Hampstead, MD 21074; wiecon12@yahoo.com, 410.374.3675

Central Maryland: Sarah Utz; 90 Steeple Ct., Germantown, MD 20874; sutz63@verizon.net; 301.916.8752

Cumberland/Hagerstown: Merry Dean; 811 Woodland Ave., LaVale, MD 21502; m-jdean@atlanticbb.net; 301.729.6597

Frederick: Kristen Clark; 5751 N. Mayer Dr., Frederick, MD 21704; kristenclark621@gmail.com; 240.529.9190

Greater Washington: Sandra Chambers; 8312 Rambler Dr.; Adelphi, MD 20783; rechambers48@netzero.com; 301.422.7353

Washington East: Korla Frye; 1003 Folcroft Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774; fryekorla@ymail.com; 301.333.9257

I look forward to seeing all at the Annual Meeting Celebration. Please bring to that meeting a list of your District's elected officers for 2016 along with their contact information.

Be Blessed,
Rita Green, Conference Secretary
12410 Fellowship Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301.330.9828
ritamgreen@hotmail.com

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR

**"...by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."
Philippians 2:2**

Communications as Mission

As an integral connectional structure within the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women plays a key role in the expansion of "concepts of mission." In addition to global connectionism, an important United Methodist Women connection is executed internally through communications at local church unit, district, and conference levels. The work is organized around both our organization's PURPOSE and Vision. Our basic leadership entity functions through goal-oriented leadership teams. The teams are composed of dedicated individuals who support the ideals of United Methodist Women in all of its ramifications. Each person is encouraged to think independently, but yet must be able to work within the team to help achieve common goals and objectives. Team members must lead the organization through effective internal communications, which works to ensure support for and involvement of all members in mission accomplishment.

Certain core values help to ensure each person can realize a sense of personal and team achievement. These values include first a love from Christ for each other, and for the organization. Others are honesty, integrity, and a genuine concern for others. All must be open to the participation of, and support for the growth and recognition of others, appreciate diversity, and encourage and practice inclusiveness, with an awareness of Jesus' vision for each one of us. Open communication channels that accommodate both leaders and members are an absolute necessity.

Accordingly, let's be prepared for productive involvement of all members in the work of United Methodist Women. Want to attract more young women and have them learn about United Methodist Women? Try engaging them to enhance the use of social media, e.g., to help arrange a Skype transaction to support an off-site "live person" meeting presentation. What about "tenured-out" older women and others who don't relish coming out to meetings, but who want to be involved? Perhaps one might enjoy being a "communications liaison" who surveys internal and external media for news and forwards information by e-mail blasts to all members. Let's continue to be creative with our internal communications efforts as we work to "expand concepts of mission" within United Methodist Women!

Submission Reminders:

- 1) District UMW input is due for both the Mission Today Unit Checklist and Mission Today Unit Competition to undersigned not later than September 15, 2015.
- 2) Local Units must have used the May 2015 version of the Mission Today Unit Checklist to qualify for inclusion in District UMW counts for the Mission Today Unit Competition.

In His service,

Ann Price, Education and Interpretation Coordinator
pricefa@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

1 Peter 5:2-3 (2) Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. (3) Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. (New Living Translation)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

It was great to finally meet district and local Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinators at Mission u. We have been communicating by email and the telephone, therefore it was a pleasure to meet you and discuss how we can address declining membership and invite women to join. We are planning to review the "Welcoming Event Toolkit" and see how it can be implemented in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT

The following membership count has been sent to National for the Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW for 2014:

- Number of units 608
- Number of units reporting 145
- Number of clusters 5
- Number of districts reporting 5
- Number of members in BWC-UMW 4,613

The first week of January 2016, I will be asking for your 2015 membership count. By then the forms will be on our web page, more information to come. The count for 2015 begins January 1, 2015 and ends December 31, 2015. Each district Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator or designated officer will receive the form via email and should in turn, email the completed form to me at daphnelhurd@icloud.com by **Tuesday, February 29, 2016**. The forms have not changed.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

There are new membership brochures available, see all of the new materials by visiting www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

REFLECTIONS AND ENCOURAGEMENT

These are exciting and challenging times for United Methodist Women as we continue to be advocates for women, children and youth around the world. United Methodist Women today face many of the same challenges that the women who began this journey in 1869, yet we must persevere. We nurture one another and partner with other groups to fulfill our Purpose and Vision, to serve and work to create a world in which all are welcomed and included. Most of all I want to

Membership Nurture and Outreach (Cont'd.)

encourage and motivate us to stay focused and be encouraged, *1 Thessalonians 5:11* (Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) 11). *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.*

Peace and Joy,

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

SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR

The last two months have been busy with the follow-up to the Charter for Racial Justice Seminar:

As you all know, Sabrina White called for a **Voter Registration Day on Aug. 6** in commemoration of the Voting Rights Bill of 1965. She reported that it was very successful with training taking place at Mission u and Voter Registration taking place at three sites on Aug. 6.

In addition, the Advocacy group from the CRJ seminar has followed up with a proposal to National UMW headquarters for a **National Advocacy Day for all UM Women in 2016 focusing on issues of Immigration (e.g. family detention) and/or issues of criminal justice**, leaving it to each Conference to determine exactly what issue is most relevant in their area and where and how the advocacy would take place. But it would all be on the same day. There would also be a national component, lobbying Congress and petitioning the President. We are waiting for a response from Carol Barton and Janis Roshuvel in New York and will keep you informed.

Both Carol Barton, UMW Office of Economic and Environmental Justice, and Bill Mefford, director of Civil and Human Rights for the General Board of Church and Society, are urging us all to participate in the **Campaign to End Family Detention**. We showed the film "No Sanctuary: Big Business and Family Detention" and gave out postcards to the Presidents at Mission u. You can **get the DVD and postcards** for your own district or unit by emailing Sophony Lamour: slamour@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Also at Mission u **Environmental Justice** was highlighted in a Focus Group on **Sustainability, Diet and Recipes**. I put together this session using material from the UMW website, where there are excellent resources for your use. I am also willing to come to your District or to a unit meeting to do this session, as my schedule allows. It is something that I hope all of us are working on in our local churches and communities.

In July, Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, general secretary of General Board of Church and Society urged all Methodists to **respond thoughtfully in love to the recent racial killings, burnings and police brutality**. She has given us 6 pointers.

Social Action (Cont'd.)

1. Affirm unequivocally non-violent resistance.
2. Express Christian love in solidarity and friendship with neighboring communities and churches.
3. Provide solace and refuge to all communities suffering acts of hatred.
4. Ensure that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 and other legal protections are enforced.
5. Insist on the removal of symbols from public display that for too long have represented hatred and bigotry.
6. Remember the forgiveness expressed and lived into by the Mother Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal witnesses to the forgiving love in Jesus Christ.

These are trying times for all of us Christians, black and white. We can only pray for God's healing grace for our country and our world.

In Christ's love,

Judy Smith
202-882-3021
smarmayor@aol.com



SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES



Greetings,

The Reading Program Contest was posted in the last Flame and the response was low so it is being posted again in this Flame issue. I would like to encourage those who enjoy reading to look over the contest information and especially pass this on to your youth.

The Reading Program has three very good books that were used at Mission u in July. "Created for Happiness: Understanding your Life in God," "Latin America: People and Faith," and "The Church and People with Disabilities."

The new program book and other reading materials will be at the Conference Annual Meeting in October.

Pamela Randall
Pamelarandall53@yahoo.com





THE READING PROGRAM FLYER CONTEST

The Reading Program Flyer 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 shut-in.

Flyers should include the following categories:

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

There will be first, second and third place winners. Winners are to be chosen and announced. Winners will be presented at the BWC- UMW Annual Conference Celebration held on October 24, 2015.

The flyer is to be printed on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper and mailed in an 8 ½ x 11 brown envelope marked "DO NOT BEND."

Mailed to:

Pamela Randall
1785 Horace Ward Road
Owings, MD 20736

Deadline: October 19, 2015 – Name, address, telephone number and email address should be on the back of the flyer.

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

Pamela Randall
Secretary of Program Resources
Pamelarandall53@yahoo.com

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

EMBRACING LIFE

Some roads are rough to travel,
And through dusty trails, we've run.
We've watched as dark clouds covered skies
Abandoned by the sun.
But, anywhere we chance to be,
We know we are secure,
All surely part of God's great plan
With courage to endure.
For He has made things beautiful,
His gift is in each day.
The worth is ours for spending here,
Look up! He'll show the way.
And if we follow, God will give
A time to laugh and heal –
To make each moment meaningful,
Embracing all that's real.
We have a treasure in our lives
Worth more than any gold;
With arms outstretched, He gives His hands
For each of us to hold.

Helen M. Motti

*To do good and to communicate forget not:
for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

Hebrews 13:16

Gertrude T. White
trudytil@aol.com

*150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION/LEGACY COMMITTEE
of the
Baltimore-Washington Conference- United Methodist Women*

Please look forward to the upcoming plans of the 150th Anniversary-Legacy Committee as we celebrate our legacy and encourage young women to become involved in United Methodist Women!

Banquet, 2017 – We are asking all units to write an article of a past or present member and how that member is special to their unit, or you may write a brief history of your unit. These articles will be compiled into a journal with other units throughout our Baltimore-Washington Conference. This journal will be available for sale at the Banquet to support our Legacy Fund. More information to follow. We encourage you to please donate to the Legacy Fund today! We appreciate your support in this endeavor.

Daisy Farmer, Coordinator

Special
Appeal

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

THE ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT:

Dear UMW Sisters in Christ:

The Annapolis District UMW has been very busy this year working to help women, children and youth. Our Annapolis District Domestic Violence Team has been proactive in assisting the Wilson Memorial UMW as they temporarily house a group of women and children. These domestic violence victims were displaced and had nowhere to live. The plan is to provide appropriate housing in the near future. Thanks so much to the Wilson Memorial UMW for showing what Christian love is all about.

After a group of us attended the Charter for Racial Justice Seminar in Blackstone, Virginia in May, we came back with a better understanding of the Charter and are actively working to educate people in our churches about its significance. It is important that as many people know about it as possible because it is going to be voted on next May at the National Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Forty-three women from the Annapolis District attended Mission u from July 31 through August 2 in Bethesda, MD. The plenary was titled "Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God" and was presented by Rev. Tony Love. The studies were "Latin America: People and Faith" and "The Church and People with Disabilities." Mission u again gave us the opportunity for spiritual growth and expanded our knowledge on the concepts of mission.

The Annapolis District UMW kicked off their Voter Registration Drive on Thursday, August 6, at Asbury Annapolis UMC on West Street in downtown Annapolis. This drive will be ongoing through the primary and general elections in 2016. However, it was kicked off on August 6, 2015 because that date was the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Thanks to Dorothy Medley, Licia Cummings, Ann Price, Louella Wilburn and Grace Marie Watkins for manning the Voter Registration table at the kick off.

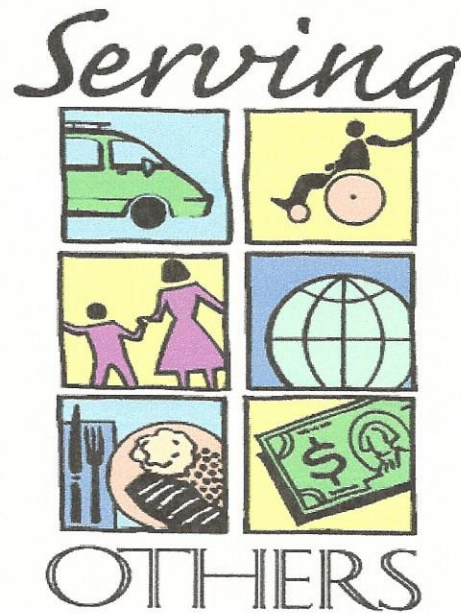
The Annapolis District donated seventy-five back packs full of school supplies to Brock Bridge Elementary School in Laurel. Many thanks to Licia Cummings for heading up this project. Also, thanks to all of the UMW units who donated filled back packs. These back packs will help seventy-five low-income children have the necessary supplies to get off to a good start this school year.

Our Annapolis District Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 10 at Centenary UMC in Shady Side, MD. Our district is also hosting the Baltimore-Washington Conference Annual Celebration & Officer Training on October 24 at Severna Park UMC. The guest speaker will be Donna Akuamoah, and she will speak on Maternal Health.

Annapolis District (Cont'd.)

Finally, please join us for our Annapolis District Retreat on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at West River Retreat Center in Churchton, MD. The cost is \$30 per person and will include breakfast and lunch. Please refer to the event flyer, included in this newsletter, for more information. Hope you will join us to enjoy the beautiful facility and grounds, good food, fellowship and learning.

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



BALTIMORE METRO VOICE

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

The Baltimore Metropolitan District United Methodist Women are women of action. We will continue “to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.” We women have the ability to “do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” We may be the faithful workers, but it is God who gives the growth.

The BMD has been faithfully meeting and doing God’s work. Our meetings have included decision making ideas and discussions concerning prison ministry contacts, 2016 Slate of Nominations, Annual Fall Meeting and Standing Rules/Bylaws. Other issues discussed were Susanna Wesley House items for auction at the luncheon and Charter for Racial Justice. We had a Conference Call meeting discussing planning dates and the Calendar of Events. The finance committee had a meeting highlighting the budget for 2016.

There was a representation of women from our district at the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference for the United Methodist Men and Women Luncheon emphasizing the sincerity of Domestic Violence and Abuse.

At Mission u, we had 24 women and three youth represented.

An action plan for the Baltimore Metropolitan District includes providing underwear and socks for both men and women for prison ministry to satisfy our *Purpose*.

Preparations are being made for our Annual Fall Meeting anticipating a representative from the House of Ruth as our speaker who will speak about Domestic Violence and Abuse. We are also preparing for the UMW 150th Anniversary Celebration and continuing our initiative for People with Disabilities. Our district participated in a full force “kick off” for Voter Registration at Mondawmin Mall on Thursday, August 6, 2015. We had many women to volunteer to register those for voting in 2016.

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

BMD face book is very much up-to-date with District and Conference notices directed by our younger UMW.

Facebook address: Baltimore Metropolitan District United Methodist Women Face Book

God's Blessings to All,

Janice D. Mason, President
jidmason@aol.com

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

BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT



Hello Everyone!

We had a wonderful time at Mission u learning about what the UMW is doing in the world to help women and children. We came away renewed in spirit to fulfill the UMW Purpose and work hard for missions!

Our District's Annual meeting will be held at St. John's UMC on September 26, 2015. The theme will be, "Come and Be Liberated!" Our guest speaker will be Kate Mackereth, who was a study leader for the Latin American study at Mission u this year. She is the Director of Operations at Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church and has an extensive background in Latin American mission work. It will be an interesting presentation and we hope to see you there! Consider doing the Latin American study in your units and purchase the study book, *Latin American People and Faith*. It is an eye opening book about the proud Latin American culture and the struggles they face in their region.

We will be letting our units "toot their horns!" We will give units an opportunity to tell everyone about their favorite mission project this year and vote for the unit that has the best mission project. They will vote at the fall meeting and the award will be given to the unit with the most votes at the 2016 Spring Prayer Breakfast. Good luck to all of our units!

This year at the fall meeting we will be collecting items for Alpha's Glory Crisis Pregnancy Center in Aberdeen. This is part of the Conference UMW initiative, Health & Maternal Health.

Nancy Randers-Pehrson and District Social Action Coordinator, Alice Collins, held a Voter Registration Drive at Lorien Nursing Home in Abingdon, MD on August 6, 2016. There will be more opportunities to increase voter participation for the upcoming elections in 2016.

See you on September 26th at St. John's UMC!

Be Blessed!

Maury Thackston, President
Mtston1@earthlink.net

CENTRAL MARYLAND DISTRICT

The Central Maryland District has actively been involved in activities of the Baltimore-Washington Conference as follows:

- Four leaders attended the racial justice seminar in Blackstone, Virginia: Two local leaders and two district leaders.
- CMD will partner with Epworth UMC to plan a workshop in the fall of 2015. Pastor Jennifer Fenner of Epworth UMC and our district leadership team will plan the workshop.
- The workshop will include topics on racial justice with break-out sessions.
- All churches, community leaders, law enforcement officers, local detectives and the press will be included in our event.
- We will narrate the stories of United Methodist Women's involvement with racial justice.
- Worship service will be held during the opening and closing of the event.
- CMD leaders visited West Montgomery and St. Mark's UMW on Saturday, May 23, 2015. They welcomed us with warmth and love.

We are working very hard to encourage people to become part of the team. Also, we are working on planning a racial justice workshop. Date and time to be determined.

Georgina K. Sherman, President
Gsherma3@jhmi.edu



GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT

The Greater Washington District (GWD) is finding God in many places through its United Methodist Women Organization's mission on behalf of women and children. The churches are enthusiastic about 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 filled to accomplish the work of the kingdom of God, GWD has been actively working in various ministries on the local church level and attending enrichment programs, events, and mission ministries sponsored by the Greater Washington District and the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

In this regard, 44 United Methodist Women from throughout our District, and one (1) youth from Gethsemane UMC, Capitol Heights, Maryland, attended Mission u, July 31-August 2, 2015. We have grabbed hold of the UMW 150 years and counting Legacy Fund and are working to make it happen, working to register citizens to vote, and are looking forward to the United Nations Seminar in November 2015.

On the local level, Greater Washington District churches are actively engaged in dialogue regarding domestic violence, prison ministries, back to school back pack ministries, earth stewardship issues, racial justice issues, immigration issues, maternal and parenting classes, Bible studies, recruiting new members, and trying to start new UMW units in their churches. Case at point, Asbury UMC DC is planning a prayer breakfasts for October 17-18, 2015, with *sermonettes* and prayers by female religious leaders from the Greater Washington District community. They will be praying for a variety of concerns, addressing various issues of the homeless [food, clothing, and shelter], recycling, and congregational health and care ministries, etc.

GWD is participating in the Voter Registration drive, which culminates in November 2015.

Closer to home, GWD continues to knit and crochet Prayer Shawls for members of their congregations. The Prayer Shawl ministry has grown to include: children's 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, etc., 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, spiritual growth and understanding.

Geraldine Whitley, President
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WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT



The Washington East District was well represented at the Mission u this summer. I took the course on welcoming those with disabilities and I learned so much from Pastor Sandi Johnson. I plan to work on the accessibility audit for our church before September 1 and plan to make certain that our units do the same and then pass on their findings to their trustees.

I had the pleasure of attending two UMW Women's Days this summer. At Edmunds UMC their guest speaker was Nona Colbert, our former President for the WED. As an extra bonus, Pastor Joan Jones was the guest speaker at Ebenezer UMC who spoke at our Annual Celebration last year. I hope to attend more UMW Women's Days in the future.

Marva Bigelow will head our Domestic Violence team for the WED. Our plan is to get two UMW members that are not on our Leadership Team to participate as well as one UMM member. The other exciting social action program that the UMW is involved in is our celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Voter Registration Act. There is no election for our area in 2015 but 2016 is a big election year and it is very important that we get everyone to register to vote. A giant thank you to Daphne Hurd for making Voter Registration Posters for each district. I plan to make up enough so each church in our district has one before 2016 begins.

Maternal Health is another important issue with our BWC-UMW. I was excited to learn that someone from the National Office will be speaking to us at our BWC-UMW Annual Celebration on October 24th. This will educate all of us as to what we can do to help with this important program. My plan is to have a workshop on this subject sometime in 2016 for our district.

I am pleased that I am working on the 150th Anniversary/Legacy Committee as well. We have already set a tentative date of Saturday, October 3, to have a luncheon for all the Pastors in the Washington East District so that we can educate them more about the importance of what the UMW does for women, children and youth. God bless and I hope to see everyone soon.

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