

The President (Cont'd.)

In small groups we discussed in detail what our responsibilities are as leaders of the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women. We emphasized our responsibilities and accountability to the National Organization of United Methodist Women, the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women Districts and local units, and discussed the implementation of hands-on mission programs, local community projects, Bible studies, prayer groups, Spiritual retreats, leadership training, attending seminars, and partnerships which enhance the mission work for women, children and youth.

The Leadership Team re-committed to moving forward by bringing fresh, new winds to the initiatives established by the Conference UMW, as well as seeking ways to recruit younger woman between the ages of 20 through 40 to become involved in local units. The Conference's social issues are Domestic Violence and Abuse, Charter for Racial Justice-Voting Registration, Maternal Health, Disabilities-Church Audits, 150th Anniversary Legacy Fund and related legislation/policies which have special emphasis for United Methodist Women. As leaders, "Mission" is the goal and purpose of God for us. Mission is the human objective by which we respond to God's love for us. God's mission outlives individual and denominational missions.

Our future plans are to increase membership, create new units, connect with women's groups, mentor leaders, grow new leaders, make opportunities available for all women to make disciples in Jesus' name, advocacy, training of officers for leadership, evaluation of mission activities, and accountability for UMW work.

We committed ourselves as United Methodist Women of God to:

- Be guided by prayer and the Holy Spirit in all decisions and actions.
- Follow the Purpose and Vision for UMW.
- Communicate more effectively with each other.
- Take responsibility in my area of expertise as a team member.
- To follow the three simple Wesleyan rules of living that have the power to change the world: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

I look forward to our continued working relationship in carrying out the Purpose and Vision for United Methodist Women.

Peace and Love,

Elizabeth Mitchell Stemley
Estemley1190@comcast.net



VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to you, my Sisters in Christ!

During this season of Lent, many of us have taken on a fast of some sort, or have added more prayer and Bible study into our daily routine. It's been more difficult for me than I thought it would be, and I have to remind myself when I want to sit down and turn on the TV, or open the refrigerator for a snack that I have promised God I would fast from both of these for the 40 days of Lent. Prayer has helped me to stay focused, and even though my sojourn through the Gospels has yet to begin, I am confident that with our Lord's help, my journey will begin in earnest very soon. I pray that your Lenten journeys are fruitful, fulfilling and blessed.

Kindly mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

- Conference UMW Leadership Team meeting and District Officer Training – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Conference Center, Fulton, MD
- Church Women United World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 4, 2016, 10:30 a.m. – Carroll Lutheran Village, Westminster, MD
- Wed., March 23, 2016, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Online giving.** The 150th Anniversary Legacy Committee will sponsor an event at the Conference Center, Fulton, MD to encourage people to come out for the Second Annual Day of Giving to the Legacy Fund. (see attached article)
- Epworth House Mission Project Luncheon, Sat., April 2, 2016, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (see attached flyer)

I would ask for your prayers for support and discernment as I have been asked by our Conference UMW President to serve as Interim President for the Central Maryland District until a new President can be elected. Our Lord's love and guidance will help us to move forward with joy and hope.

May the love of Christ fill each of you with His peace.

Linda S. Yost
LJYost@verizon.net
410-239-0429



SECRETARY

Hello Sister Secretaries!

I'd like to say hello to all District Secretaries and especially welcome the new District Secretaries Rhonda Kelly of the Baltimore Metropolitan District and Michele Sparklin of the Baltimore Suburban District to their new positions.

Of course one of our main responsibilities is to take the minutes of all meetings. Why do we take minutes? There are multiple reasons and benefits:

- They are a historical record of our group's decisions and actions.
- They are a reminder of who was given assignments.
- They are evidence of deadlines.
- They are a benefit for people who are absent when decisions are made.

I'll be sharing lots of additional information and tips at our training on March 5. Hope all district secretaries will be able to attend.

Blessings,

Rita Green
ritamgreen@hotmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

What is Lent?

Lent is the annual period of the Christian observance that precedes Easter. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and its observance lasts for 40 days, mirroring the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. It can also be seen to mirror the 40 hours that Jesus spent in the tomb prior to His resurrection.

During Lent many Christians commit to fasting or giving up certain foods, habits or luxuries – for example meat, cakes and sweets, alcohol, smoking- for its duration (the money saved is often then donated to charity). This is done both as a form of

Spiritual Growth (Cont'd.)

penitence and as a spiritual tool to tame the body and "sharpen the spirit" for prayer, reflection and contemplation in preparation for celebration of Easter.

This year instead of giving up something that we will probably go back to after the Lenten season is over our church is (1) Sacrificing by setting aside the money we would spend for movies, fast food and other vices to turn in on Easter Sunday for outreach ministries, (2) Apologizing to someone we have offended ("Make things right with your Brothers and Sisters," Matthew 5:23-24), (3) Doing random acts of kindness by paying for the person behind you in line, giving away gift cards and asking others how they are doing and really take the time to listen, (4) Studying your Bible more and see if you can find Hymns based on what you have read, (5) Giving of your service in the church, your community wherever you may see a need, John 3:1-17, (6) Visiting the lonely by going to Nursing Homes, or the sick and shut-in at your church, and (7) Increasing your prayer life by choosing a different person- known or unknown or a foreign country or a local or global issue or news story and make that your prayer focus for the day.

Zilpha Pinkney
zapinkney@yahoo.com



EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR

"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to interests of others." Philippians 2:4

Hello, Everyone. Welcome again to the wonderful world of MISSION, in the name of United Methodist Women!

Mission Today Unit Checklist: First, we promised to disseminate a document with examples of actions that can support completion of all Checklist items. Accordingly, a copy of an optional *Mission Today Unit Checklist Examples* document is included as an attachment to this newsletter. The purpose of the Examples document is to promote a better understanding of ways Checklist items can be completed to ensure Checklist certification requirements are met. We are hoping this document will help to ensure maximum participation in the Mission Today Program. Second, as was true in 2015, local units must use only the Mission Today Unit Checklist Form dated May 2015 for submission to the district for certification. A copy of the May 2015 Checklist is also included as an attachment to this newsletter. And, finally, the annual *BWC UMW District Mission Today Unit Competition* is now under way. Each local Unit is encouraged to participate in the 2016 *Mission Today Checklist* so your district can compete, and possibly win one of the three prizes. The district that wins First Place will be the recipient of the rotating *Mission Today Crystal Award* for having the largest number of Units *qualifying* for Mission Today Unit Checklist certification at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels.

Call to Prayer and Self Denial: Units are encouraged to implement *A Call to Prayer and Self Denial Service* early in 2016. This supplementary, designated, Mission Giving Program provides an opportunity to study and reflect on a particular theme each year, and to designate monies for ministries that support the theme. The 2016 theme is "*Women at Work: Economic Justice and Empowerment.*" *A Call to Prayer and Self Denial Service* is included in the special programs section of the 2015-2016 Program Book, "*United Methodist Women - Growing in Blessedness.*"

Pledge to Mission: Has your local unit decided your 2016 Pledge to Mission and submitted your Unit's Pledge to your district treasurer? If not, you are encouraged to do so soonest. If you have completed this action, wonderful, and, of course, United Methodist Women thank you! Now, the challenge is to make your Pledge for 2016. You can do it!

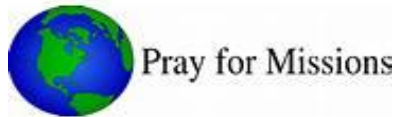
Education & Interpretation (Cont'd.)

Response and New World Outlook: The January 2016 issue of *response* and the January/February 2016 issue of *New World Outlook* contain topical indexes to all articles included in each publication in 2015. Keep these two editions as "collectors' items" and assets for your use as information resource guides to support projects, meetings, Mission studies and special events.

Let us look forward to a challenging, and mission-filled year in 2016!

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

Ann Price
pricefa@verizon.net



MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

"Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right."
2 Thessalonians 3:13

Dear Colleagues;

I hope all of you had a great Christmas and will have a great 2016. Now begins the season of Lent, we are preparing to remember the death and resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and the hope that His death has endowed us with. Patricia Parents writes on the United Methodist webpage a message of hope and empowerment. I thought it was a timely message because we are working very hard on recruiting, retaining and regaining women for the work of the United Methodist Women ... "So when we feel the weariness, we know we have somewhere to go for empowerment, comfort and relief. Whether as individuals or in relationship with sisters in the work before us, we can go to that place. By prayer, worship and sharing we can be renewed to continue the work still to be done. Those who have gone before us found that place of rest, renewal and strength, and because of that much has already been accomplished."

Membership Nurture & Outreach (Cont'd.)

MEMBERSHIP EVENT FEEDBACK

I have received feedback from several units with suggestions and ideas for an event. The leadership team will be planning an event so watch out for an update. Thank you for submitting your suggestions and ideas.

NEW UNIT

We welcome the return of St. Matthew United Methodist Church on Avon Beach Road, Turner Station in the Baltimore Metropolitan District. They have submitted their application for reinstatement.

STAY ACTIVE

Several of the district Membership Coordinators have been discussing ways to work with inactive units as well as ways to keep units from going inactive. We would like your feedback on these ideas. They feel there are alternatives to going inactive: (1) Someone from the church can decide to be a District Member and receive all the information from the District and the Conference. (2) Your unit can become a cluster unit with another UMW unit in your area and/or charge. This way the work of UMW, in helping women and children of the world, can continue on. (3) Many women cite the lack of access to a computer a reason they cannot continue. Perhaps teaming up with someone who does have a computer and is willing to get or give you access will help. There are other ways to get information. And (4) We are aging.

So many of you have such a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, caring, integrity, and nurturing that is needed to mentor younger women, don't let that legacy be lost, tout it, exploit it, that is what is needed, you are never "TOO OLD to make a difference." If your unit is having problems, please feel free to contact me by phone, mail or e-mail. I will visit your unit, please invite me and/or the Leadership Team, we are here to help. Help us to serve you. The United Methodist Women do SO much for the women, children and youth of the world. Please continue doing the mission work that our UMW foremothers started by being active so that we continue to uphold the PURPOSE and put Faith, Hope, and Love in Action.

Daphne L. Hurd
3707 Yolando Road
Baltimore, MD 21218
daphnelhurd@icloud.com - 410 235-0103





SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR

Greetings Sisters:

When you read this I will be in Nicaragua, teaching at Universidad Evangelica Nicaraguense Martin Luther King, Jr. – another way of doing Social Action! But before I leave in two days, I want to report on our exciting Maryland Legislative Advocacy Day today in Annapolis. It was a great example of putting our faith into action and working together with the Board of Church and Society, headed up in our conference by Rev. Julie Wilson. Other members of our organizing committee were Rev. Kevin Slayton, advocacy coordinator for BWC and Ann Price, UMC coordinator for education and interpretation, who lent us her expertise and energy.

The issues for which we advocated were the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2016, Criminal Justice, and Paid Sick Leave. The 48 Methodists present were divided into groups to visit legislators' offices, after receiving briefings and suggestions on lobbying by experts on those issues. It was an exciting and inspirational day and personally rewarding for me to have my daughter Jennifer, from an Ellicott City Methodist church with no UMW, present. Most of us were United Methodist Women, but there was a sizable sprinkling of pastors there as well. I hope that more of us can participate next year. It is both educational and exciting for us to bring our Christian witness into the halls of power and do our small part to bring about the kingdom of God on earth.

Best wishes for lots of energetic social action in my absence. Marva Bigelow, Social Action Coordinator for Washington East, will be available to assist while I am away for the next three months. You can reach me by email jarmayor@gmail.com, and look forward to seeing you after my return May 18th.

God's blessings and peace to you all.

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

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

A unique way to begin your role as a Communications Coordinator would be to ask the following questions.

New coordinators of communications usually ask four basic questions:

- What is my job?
- Where do I begin?
- How do we reach people in the congregation?
- How do we make our church more visible in the community?

This Guideline will help you answer those questions, but it represents one toe in the water, just breaking the surface. If needed, you will want to tap additional resources for more in-depth discussion.

Where Do I Start?

1. Get clarity on the expectations of your position.
2. Learn about your annual conference.
3. Contact the conference director of communications, the district office, and other local church communicators.
4. Understand what you bring to the position and begin evolving the concept of what local church communications is for your local church.
5. Form an ad hoc communications team.

You no doubt are already asking yourself, “What should communications for this church look like and how do I make it happen?” The answer will definitely evolve over time, but the question is a good motivator to launch a journey of discovery.

You know the adage, “It’s not *what* you know, and it’s *who* you know?” That’s a good place to start –finding the many “who” to support you along the way. The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, which means all United Methodist churches are connected in various ways—and help is available through the connection.

KNOW YOUR DISTRICT AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

As a brief review, your local church is in a *district* within an *annual conference*. A district superintendent oversees several churches in the district. Get to know the superintendent and administrative person in your district office. They likely publish a newsletter and maintain a website. It’s critical for you to have access to this

Communications (Cont'd.)

information, as you may want to advertise and participate in district events and ministries, as well as promote your own local church events through the district. Ask to be on newsletter mailing lists—and ask how you can serve the communications needs of the district.

From: *Guidelines-Communications, Telling Your Church's Story.*

Gertrude White
trudytil@aol.com

Committee on Nominations

Lessons on Leadership

LEADERSHIP
IS ABOUT MAKING OTHERS
BETTER AS A
RESULT OF YOUR PRESENCE
AND MAKING **SURE**
THAT IMPACT LASTS IN YOUR
ABSENCE.

“Leadership is action, not position”

Donald McGannon

If you can't fly, then run;

If you can't run, then walk.

If you can't walk, then crawl;

If you can't crawl, but whatever you do,
Keep moving forward.”

Martin Luther King

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the change we've been waiting for. We are the change we seek.”

Barack Obama

Committee on Nominations (Cont'd.)

Great leaders don't set out to be leaders. They set out to make a difference. It is never about the role. It is about the goal. The Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women's Leadership team needs leaders who are passionate about our organization; who have the courage to try, to learn and to grow. As Helen Keller puts it, "Alone we can do little; however, together we can do much." Help us to rise by lifting others (women, children and youth). **We are currently soliciting nominations for the following positions:**

Program Advisory Group Alternate (immediate opening), Treasurer (immediate opening), Spiritual Growth Coordinator (2017), Committee on Nominations (four positions), Job descriptions are available to interested individuals.

Submit nominations by phone or email to Jeanette Thomas, Chairperson or any committee member:

Jeanette Thomas	443-386-2389	jeanettethomas1@verizon.net
Patricia Cain	410-798-5972	patcain67@gmail.com
Mikele Delmore	410-926-0536	mhdeldmore@yahoo.com
Verna Gaskins	410-456-2898	verna536@aol.com
Barbara Sprecher	410-535-2448	bjsprecher@comcast.net
Tangela Terry	443-694-0468	mst2136@yahoo.com

Jeanette V. Thomas, Chair
Jeanettethomas1@verizon.net

READING PROGRAM

The reading program's books are used to encourage readers to think about current issues that exist today. They provide an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and broaden your understanding of our mission work. For 140 years, the United Methodist Women have been involved in a mission that includes prayer, study, and action. The reading program is an opportunity to study and also lead to action.

Listed are some ways that we can promote the reading program:

- Explain the Reading Program's procedures to interested individuals and enroll them into the program.
- Use the catalog as a guide for choosing titles and mission responses.

Reading Program (Cont'd.)

- Secure books and circulate them.
- Distribute copies of the catalog.
- Direct members to the Reading Program's Online Community.
- Distribute copies of the Reading Program's brochure so participants can track and report their reading.
- Post book titles on your information board.

Listed below are some books from the reading program to put on your reading list and share with others. There are children and youth books.

- Coffee, Tea, and Holy Water- One Woman's Journey to Experience Christianity around the Globe
- The White Umbrella- Walking with Survivors of Sex Trafficking

Youth Books:

- Nature Girl- A Guide to Caring for God's Creation
- Our Rights- How Kids are Changing the World

Children's Books:

- Because I Am A Girl- I Can Change the World
- Lend A Hand- Poems about Giving

Brenda Thompson is the Reading Program Specialist. She administrates the program and welcomes book recommendations, as well as questions and suggestions about the Reading Program. When suggesting a book please include the title, author, publisher, date of publication and price.

Email: bathomps@unitedmethodistwomen.org /phone# 212-870-3777

Pamela Randall
Conference Secretary of Program Resources
Pamelarandall53@yahoo.com



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



REPORT OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY LEGACY COMMITTEE

This report is for the following months:

- Meet on Saturday, February 20, 2016, 2:00 p.m. at the Baltimore-Washington Conference Center, 11711 East Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759.
- Wed., March 23, 2016, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Online giving.** We will have an event at the Conference Center, Fulton, MD to encourage people to come out for the Second Annual Day of Giving to the Legacy Fund. There will be a light lunch, a follow-up about the Legacy, and an opportunity to make or add to your Legacy pledge. Laptop computers and Tablets will be available for your use, and help available as needed.
- All local units are asked to reach out to college-age (and high school-age) students by sending cards of encouragement during exam time, Birthday cards, Care packages, and thinking of you notes.
- Articles for the Legacy Journal are due by May, 2016. All local units are asked to submit articles of historical events/significance or a biography of a special member of their unit to Linda S. Yost at LJYost@verizon.net or mail to:

Linda S. Yost
1910 Upper Forde Lane
Hampstead, MD 21074
- Look forward to more information on a youth (college-age) and young adult Prayer Service to be held during the late summer before school begins again.

Thanks to all who have been working diligently to carry forward our UMW Legacy.

God Bless,
Daisy M. Farmer, Legacy Liaison
Farmerdaisy66@gmail.com

GREETINGS FROM THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (NEJ-UMW)

I hope you are making plans to join the NEJUMW Leadership Team for the Quadrennial Meeting, at the OnCenter Convention Center, **June 16-18, 2016** in **Syracuse, New York**. Our theme is "**Fresh Wind Blowing**." Registration is open and I suggest everyone register as quickly as possible. Registration is **on-line only**: www.nejumwomen.wix.com/nejumwomen There will be workshops and an Ubuntu experience for the participants who are **not** delegates. There will be pre-registration for these events.

Visit the NEJ on the following social media sites for more information:

- **Twitter**: NEJUMWOMEN
- **Facebook**: Northeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Women

Five hotels have been reserved (mention UMW NEJ meeting when making reservations): Courtyard by Marriott, Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center, Genesee Grand, Park View and the Jefferson Clinton.

- There will be available transportation (in addition to the hotels that have complimentary shuttles) from the entry and departure sites, at the participants' own cost.
- There is a free "looping shuttle" between the Oncenter and the hotels during the entire time of the quadrennial meeting

Come and join us as we:

- **celebrate** the PURPOSE;
- **enjoy** the opening processional with "kites" representing each conference;
- **participate** in communion service with approximately 700 men & women
- **experience** worship and Bible study led by Demetrio Beach (UNY Conf formerly from BWC);
- **lift up our voices in song** lead by music leader, Raymond Trapp who has a special surprise for our Friday night entertainment;
- **listen & learn** from our young ladies participating in Limitless; but most of all;
- **watch the election** of directors to the UMW National organization and the election of the jurisdiction leadership team.

If you have questions or concerns let me know.

Colleen F Cates
Secretary, NE Jurisdiction UMW
craftyme53@gmail.com
410-488-5369(h) 410-598-9470 (cell)

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE
UMW BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet on April 12 at the Conference Center. During this meeting, we will decide how much we can donate to the Scholarship Fund. As of this date, we do not have a representative for the Cumberland-Hagerstown District. This is an important slot to fill, because each district should have a representative. We have considered even meeting in Frederick County in the month of September and are recommending that their representative be on the Nominating Committee instead of the Finance Committee because the Nominating Committee communicates via phone whereas the Finance Committee meets two weeks after the regular meeting. This way, the representative from Cumberland-Hagerstown would only have to drive to the Conference Center once a year. If your unit is in this district; please prayerfully consider this worthwhile commitment. Thank you for considering this. My contact information is (H) 410-257-3210, (Cell) 443-532-6442. Email: showes@chesapeake.net.

Susan Howes
President
showes@chesapeake.net



DISTRICT REPORTS

ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT

Greetings UMW Sisters in Christ:

The Annapolis District UMW is off and running in 2016 with a renewed commitment to our motto of faith, hope and love in action.

Many thanks to the Annapolis Cluster Leaders for an excellent turnout at our annual officer training on January 9 at Calvary United Methodist Church in Annapolis. Nearly one hundred women attended and received the training that they needed to be UMW leaders. Among those present was the Baltimore Washington Conference UMW President, Elizabeth Mitchell Stemley, who brought greetings to the assembled group. Thanks to the women of Calvary UMW for serving as gracious hostesses and to all who helped to make the training a success.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW hosted their annual Maryland Legislative Advocacy Day 2016 on Wednesday, February 17 at Asbury United Methodist Church in downtown Annapolis. The issues addressed were "Greenhouse Renewal Act", "Criminal Justice" and "Paid Sick Leave." Many members of the Annapolis District attended and received advocacy training, discussed the issues and attended office visits with legislators as well as general assembly hearings.

Our annual Prayer Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Asbury Town Neck UMC. Please save the date and details will follow.

Our Alice Bryant Scholarship has been reinstated in 2016. This Annapolis District scholarship has not been awarded in several years. Many thanks to Judy Sparks, our Education & Interpretation Coordinator, and her committee for getting this program back up and running. We will be awarding several \$1000 scholarships for the 2016-2017 school years.

It is with great sadness to report that Gail Hill, President of the Mt. Zion UMW, passed away on January 16, 2016. Gail was a tireless worker at Mt. Zion UMC and on behalf of the UMW. She will be missed by many.

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 METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Greetings,

My name is Gwendolyn Brooks and I am the newly elected President for the Baltimore Metropolitan District- United Methodist Women. Like most new presidents, I am feeling unsure and ill-equipped. But like most new presidents, who have gone before me, I am stepping out on faith and trusting the God I have served for many years to lead and guide me. I will trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not to my own understanding; in all my ways I will submit to Him, and He will make my path straight.

It is a special honor and a privilege to begin my term as president of the Baltimore Metropolitan District, United Methodist Women. Our outgoing president, Janice Mason, deserves an enormous thank you from all of us— for guiding this district so ably. She has been a terrific role model, and her shoes will be difficult to fill. I am especially grateful that I will be able to rely on her wise counsel during my term.

The United Methodist Women hold a special place in my heart. I had the privilege of starting my life as a United Methodist Woman as an infant. The story goes that my grandmother, Maud Johnson, brought me to my first meeting dressed in a pink outfit. At that time we were known as the Women's Society. During that meeting I am told that no UMW work was completed that day; all the ladies wanted to do was hold and coo at me.

In preparation for my presidency, the past four years have been spent as the vice president for the BMD. This role has provided me with a chance to learn first-hand about many of the important activities in which the UMW are currently involved. In addition, I have served as the president of my local unit at Christ United Methodist Church, located in East Baltimore near Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Thanks to the work of all of our committees, under the guidance of our outstanding leadership, the BMD is in good shape. The past four years the BMD has delighted in participation of the many Conference activities and focus issues. Under my leadership, the plan remains the same. We will continue to focus our efforts and energy on the Conference focus issues put before us and recruits new and younger members to insure that this community of women will continue to flourish. In addition we will be conscious of the needs of the women, youth and children in the communities in which we serve.

We understand that there will be challenges; however, we know that God has not brought us this far to leave us. We will press forward, confident that we can live up to our Purpose, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of

Baltimore Metropolitan District (Cont'd.)

mission through participation in the global (and community) ministries of the church.

I ask for your continued prayers and support as I begin this journey. May God almighty strengthen our bond as a community of women. Thank you and God bless!

Gwendolyn Brooks
gwndlynbrooks@aol.com

BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is my pleasure to announce to you that I am the new President of the Baltimore Suburban District, United Methodist Women. My name is Ruthella Lievers, and I bring with me a lifelong membership with the United Methodist Women. I am formally your Communications Coordinator, who joyfully brought to you news regarding events in the district and throughout the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Baltimore Suburban District United Methodist Women are well known for their dedication and fulfillment of their purpose: to know God, to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop creative supportive fellowships, to expand concepts in mission, and to participate in the global ministries of the church.

One of my favorite scriptures that describes the work we, as United Methodist Women perform, is found in Matthew 25:34-40 (34) Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your

Baltimore Suburban District (Cont'd.)

inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. (35) For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, (36) I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. '(37) "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? (38) When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? (39) When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? '(40) "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' These verses expound the optimism I feel for our group and our ability to be ambassadors for Christ as we strive to embark upon our initiatives.

Our reputation for getting things done and surpassing goals, guarantees our certain success in fighting Domestic Violence and Abuse, Celebrating our 150th Anniversary, engaging in the Church and People with Disabilities, undertaking the United Nations Initiative - Health and Maternal Health, and taking part in Charter for Racial Justice. I consider myself fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work with you in accomplishing much in the service of Our Lord Jesus the Christ.

With great enthusiasm, I am looking forward to the experience of serving you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 443-858-9329 or ralievers1@comcast.net, if I can be of any assistance. I am eager to work with you and look forward to meeting each of you in person.

Grace and Blessings,

Ruthella Liewers, President
Ralievers1@comcast.net

GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT

The Greater Washington District continues to work for the kingdom of God through many spirit-filled ministries. I am very excited about what we collectively can do in the name of Jesus Christ for the good of His kingdom on earth. As we work to alleviate human suffering in our corner of the world, we know that Jesus Christ will help us through our many difficulties.

Along the way to accomplish our mission of service to humanity our Legislative Seminar held on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at Silver Spring United Methodist Church, (formerly Woodside), 8900 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, is devoted to spreading Jesus Christ's Radical Hospitality practices Through Social Media. Also, the Greater Washington District is strategizing with local churches to actively spread the news of the UMW Legacy Fund. More details will

Greater Washington District (Cont'd.)

follower later on this project. Further, the power of advocacy on behalf of domestic violence victims is being shown through a variety of ministries in the local GWD, as well as for earth science and environmental issues. During the snow storm of 2016 many of our district churches opened their doors to provide food, clothing, and shelter to the homeless for the duration of the storm. God's mercy and grace are alive and well in the Greater Washington District. We hope that these acts of mercy will generate disciples for Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20 - NIV).

Geraldine J. Whitley
President
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WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT

Happy New Year to each of my Sisters in Christ:

Prayers are that we all survived the Blizzard of 2016 without any broken bones, damage to your home or loss of power. All the units in our district are checking with their congregation to make sure they have **registered to vote**. If they have moved they need to change their polling location and see if they need transportation to the polls for our upcoming primary election.

All of our units have been notified that March 23rd has been set aside as the Day of Giving for the **150th UMW Legacy Fund**. I am so excited that the Washington East District is planning to have a **WALK 4 WOMEN, Youth and Children** on Saturday, September 24 being held at a location that is centrally located in our district. We can walk in memory of or in honor of one or several of our current or former UMW members that have made a difference in the lives of Women, Children and Youth. We will take pledges for the walk that will involve women with strollers, to older members being pushed with a wheelchair. Whether they walk for 15 minutes or 15 times around, they are walking for the future of the UMW.

On March 26, we are providing a seminar on the **Church and people with Disabilities** at Ward's Memorial UMC with Rev. Dr. Sandy Johnson as our guest speaker and their Deaf Choir will be performing for us. We will be having a Love offering as the choir has been asked to perform at the Annual Conference in Oregon in May so we can help with expenses.

Washington East District (Cont'd.)

I am also excited that we are going to have a workshop on **Maternal Health** in three different locations on the same day. If your unit is in Calvert or St. Mary's County, you will go to the workshop at St. Paul's – Lusby UMC; if you live in Charles County, yours will be at Calvary UMC in Waldorf; and if your unit is in Prince George's County you will go to Asbury UMC in Brandywine.

This will be a great opportunity to find out what we can do to help any young ladies who are pregnant and what we can do to help their county organizations that want to provide the help that they will need before giving birth. We will have an offering at each workshop, to cover the cost of the continental breakfast and the remaining will go to the organization that is speaking to provide information for each of us. Our goal is to have at least one person from each United Methodist Church to learn what we can do to help.

Our Social Action coordinator, Marva Bigelow, has designed a flyer to put in all the church restrooms, giving them telephone numbers to call if they are a victim of **Domestic Violence**. Such a simple thing to do that can make a difference in someone's life.

While we were snowed in, I sent a letter to all the pastors that do not have UMW units and asked them to see if any of the ladies at their church would be interested in sharing our resources for the upcoming programs that we are doing. My goal is for them to see what we have to offer the women, children and youth and will want to become a part of the UMW. I am pleased to say that there have been results from this endeavor already.

I certainly do not expect everyone to go to everything but I am asking them to find at least one person from their unit to attend each event and then share with their unit what you have learned from it. It will make it easier plus we will all learn more about what our Lord Jesus Christ wants us to do. God uses each of us in different ways. All we have to do is listen to Him and make ourselves available to HIM. That isn't always easy. I'm a true example of this but if we do listen, great things will happen in His Name.

God Bless each and every one of you.

Susan Howes, President
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OBITUARY OF JESUS

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, His devoted mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

Jesus was self-educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the Good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, he held a Last Supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which he foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did.

Donations may be sent to anyone in need.

HE LIVES FOR ALL OF US!

Author Unknown

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER!!

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