



## THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

VOLUME II

JUNE 2016

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As women, let us give thanks to God for all of His blessings. God's mission has been on the heart of women throughout history with faith, hope and love in action. We are called to serve others.

United Methodist Women are on the forefront leading changes, leading with fresh wind for social justice on behalf of women, children and youth. *"Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very word of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever."*  
1 Peter 4:11.

We embrace the Purpose for UMW through the conference theme—**Embracing Mission and Outreach through Love in Action.** Our vision, faith, hope and love in action for United Methodist Women personifies that we empower women, children, and youth through mission. These activities will strengthen the quality of their lives as they help others. All districts are to make conference initiatives come alive in the people they serve within the various communities through hands-on mission. Our initiatives are:

- **Charter for Racial Justice-Voter Registration, community education and learning to live out the Charter.**

The President (Cont'd.)

- **Domestic violence - Encouraging churches to participate in community activities and have small group discussions. Creating a Church Domestic team with six people to promote awareness and community education.**
- **Disabilities -Inform churches to conduct an accessibility audit. To meet the needs of those who may be challenged in health, hearing, sight and physical disabilities.**
- **Maternal Health – Make sex information available for churches and schools.**
- **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration-Telling the story of UMW and target younger women for membership in UMW.**

The district presidents are responsible for ensuring that the conference initiatives are passed on to the local churches for implementation. Remember, that we are connected through a connectional system with churches and agencies. There are various resources in each district that can be used to help with mission and outreach efforts in the community such as: workshops, speakers, drama/skits, health fairs, social justice issues, discussion groups that can be used to meet the diverse needs of women, children and youth. Continue to adopt a school, child care facility and senior facility as a service project in mission.

In five months the conference and districts will host their annual celebrations which will highlight the accomplishments achieved in living out the initiatives. This requires a greater attention to gathering data and accurately reporting the mission events/stories; identifying active/inactive units; directories with correct emails and phone numbers; monitoring the progress on paying mission pledges to the BWC-UMW. The districts are encouraged to work closely with the local units to help them understand how pledge funds are used around the world to serve others.

Special emphasizes are to be placed upon the role of the Nominations Committee to be inclusive in the selection process for officers. Each district shall have a committee with 3-5 members that reflects the composition of its membership.

The conference Nomination's Committee shall have representation from each district to serve as a team member. Please consider recommending a person for this great responsibility. It would be helpful to have a chart that depicts the date elected, years served and the end year for each officer.

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The President (Cont'd.)

The code of ethics guiding principles for finance officers' best practice states that finance officers (treasurers) should avoid any conflict of interest by having relatives handle funds for the leadership team. As a conference we support this principle.

The BWC-UMW are involved in the farewell activities for Mrs. Barbara Matthews, wife of Bishop Marcus Matthews. The theme: ***From our Hearts to Her Heart*** will be celebrated on May 28, 2016, 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm at the Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission Center. The districts' local churches have donated 125 prayer shawls and lap covers to be sent to Africa University in Zimbabwe in honor of Mrs. Matthews' ministry as well as a love offering which will be submitted to Gilchrist Hospice, her favored charity.

We are called through our Purpose to serve women, children and youth around the world. Let's continue to work as a team in exploring avenues to address social justice issues.

"God has a purpose for each of us, a work for each one to do, a place for each one to fill, an influence for each one to exert, a likeness to His Son for each one to manifest." *Author C. A. Hall (b.1847)*

Peace and Blessings,

Elizabeth Mitchell Stemley  
Estemley1190@comcast.net



**VICE PRESIDENT**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Your Conference UMW Leadership Team met together recently and I shared with them a list of activities that I have been involved in throughout the Conference. I would like to share them with you as well:

- Conducted Officer Training on March 5, 2016, for District Vice Presidents
- Met with the Central Maryland District Leadership Team for the first time as their Interim President (March 5<sup>th</sup> after Officer Training)
- Attended Goshen UMW (Central MD District) business meeting, and installed officers at their general meeting on March 12, 2016
- Attended the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Second Annual Day of Giving on March 23<sup>rd</sup>; provided soup and computer support for attendees to make a pledge
- Attended Mission u training on April 1-3, 2016 – was instructed on how to teach a class on “Climate Justice”
- Attended the Baltimore Suburban District Prayer Breakfast on April 16, 2016
- Met with the CMD Leadership Team on April 9, 2016, and led a Conference Call on April 25, 2016, both for planning a Spring Prayer Breakfast, and for compiling a Directory
- Participated in a number of conference calls with Elizabeth Stemley, Conference United Methodist Women President, Bill Weller, Conference United Methodist Men President, and other UMM to plan the Cooperative Luncheon at Annual Conference on Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Began discussion and planning with Gwendolyn Brooks, President of Metropolitan District UMW, with regard to the Conference UMW Annual Celebration on October 22, 2016.
- Along with Elizabeth Stemley, met with the Pastor and three women of Washington Grove UMC, in the Central Maryland District, on May 6, 2016, to discuss re-establishing a United Methodist Women’s unit. Looks very hopeful.

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Vice President (Cont'd.)

It is with pleasure that I serve as your Vice President, and I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months at Mission u and our Conference Annual Celebration. Blessings!

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda S. Yost  
LJYost@verizon.net

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**SECRETARY**

Secretary News:

It was a pleasure meeting with Erma Ellecamp from the Annapolis District, Michele Sparklin from the Baltimore Suburban District and Korla Frye from the Washington East District at our March training. At the meeting I shared five United Methodist Women Editing Guidelines:

- United Methodist Women is treated as a singular noun. Women who are part of United Methodist Women are "members of United Methodist Women," "a member of United Methodist Women" or "United Methodist Women members. INCORRECT: United Methodist Woman.
- We do not use "UMW" in publications unless it's part of a website address like: [www.umwonline.org](http://www.umwonline.org)
- As of January 2013, United Methodist Women is no longer called "Women's Division." Please use "United Methodist Women" in all instances (unless speaking of the past).
- Mission Giving is United Methodist Women's primary source of fundraising and is always capitalized. Program Book, Prayer Calendar, National Mission Institutions, and Reading Program should also always be capitalized.
- Do not use the phrase "mission to," but rather "mission with" when referring to United Methodist Women's work with women, children, youth and other marginalized communities.

Also the correct logo that we should be using with United Methodist Women publications is:

Secretary (Cont'd.)



It can be found on the  
[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) web page under:  
For Members & Leaders > Logos & Templates.

There are some dos and don'ts of using our emblem in the current handbook.

Rita Green  
Secretary, BWC-UMW  
ritamgreen@hotmail.com

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**SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR**

***SAFE FAITH***

Lord, we're faced with so many decisions,  
not knowing which way to go  
We're afraid we may choose the wrong one,  
O Lord, help us to know

Let your peace be to us a guide  
In knowing what we should do  
And take us by the hand and lead  
With the wisdom that comes from you

Sometimes we're scared to take the first step  
When we don't know where to walk  
We feel safe in our little comfort zones  
With a safe-faith in our Lord

No matter what we come to choose,  
May we know that you love us  
And will be our guide to show the way,  
We but only need to trust.

**© By M.S.Lowndes**

Spiritual Growth (Cont'd.)

Our Spiritual Retreat was postponed because we did not get enough participation. We hope to reschedule but must look at our calendars to try to find a date. If you have some suggestions for dates, please feel free to call me or email me. I want to thank those who did register and I have your name, phone number, email address and regular address. When we reschedule I will let you know.

Our Baltimore Metropolitan District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Delores Chambers, Sharp Street Memorial UMC, Baltimore, MD, transitioned to be with the Lord. Please keep her family and Mission Team in your thoughts and prayers.

As we continue this Spiritual journey let us be mindful of others because we never know where they are in their walk of life. They may still be babes and need to be fed, they may be youngsters seeking their way or they could be seasoned and lost their way. We thank God for being our WAY!

Zilpha Pinkney  
zapinkney@yahoo.com

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**EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR**

***“Speak out on behalf of the voiceless and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.” Proverbs 31:8***

**Mission within United Methodist Women:** United Methodist Women is synonymous with the concept of mission. Its entire emphasis is mission with a focus on spiritual and educational development of United Methodist Women members, and advocacy and service involving justice for women, youth, and children. In addition to the wonderful personal hands-on mission, and other activities carried out within conferences, United Methodist Women’s core mission activities are undergirded by a structured Mission Giving program. All elements of the giving program are important, but significant emphasis is placed on the *Pledge to Mission*. Within the Baltimore-Washington Conference, we implement our mission programs quite well. It is important to recognize, though, that across all conferences, meeting of the annual *Pledge to Mission* is essential to the success of any mission program. In that regard, let us endeavor to give this Mission Giving effort our highest priority.

Education and Interpretation (Cont'd.)

**Mission Today Unit Checklist Competition:** As a reminder, 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* to help your district 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. A 2016 Mission Today Unit Competition Flyer is enclosed herein.

**Annual Report Submissions:** The B-W Conference UMW Leadership Team has set the following 2016 schedule for submission of Annual Reports: (1) Report submissions from UMW local units are due to responsible UMW district officers not later than September 1, 2016. (2) Report submissions from UMW district officers are due to responsible conference officers not later than September 15, 2016. (3) Report submissions from conference officers are due to other responsible conference officers not later than September 30, 2016. These deadlines refer to reports such as the Reading Program, Diversity Today Units, 5-Star Units, Mission Today Unit Checklist, Mission Today Checklist Competition, and other such reports.

**Item:** Did you know that a Brand Guidelines document is located on the United Methodist Women website? If you write newsletters, prepare briefing updates, bulletin inserts, minutes, and other such items, visit the following website to view UMW brand information: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/logos](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/logos).

***"Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? I said, I'm here; send me.'" Isaiah 6:8***

Ann Price  
pricefa@verizon.net



**MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

*"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established"*  
Proverbs 16:3 (NRS)

Congratulations Baltimore-Washington Conference! We were able to submit our Census Data to National Headquarters, THIS YEAR ONLY, without having to comply with using the new data collection system that has been implemented. Under the new guidelines, ALL LOCAL UNITS and DISTRICTS are to input their data into the system. On April 19, the Membership Office re-opened The 2015 On-line Membership Census link to allow Conferences to input their Census Membership information. Upon receiving that email, Maria Rodriguez at the National UMW Membership Office in New York, was contacted to discuss the dilemma the Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW faced with many of the local units not having or limited by access to a computer. Again, it was explained to her that we had better results with the 2013 and 2014 collection tool. She acknowledged that other Conferences faced the same problem, but this method would better serve them. However, after more discussion I was allowed to re-enter what was submitted earlier, without involving EACH LOCAL UNIT or DISTRICT logging into the online data collection system.

We will have to come up with ways in which each local unit and district can get assistance with inputting their information. For more information on the new system, visit <http://unitedmethodistwomen-public.sharepoint.com>

The membership count for 2015, submitted to National UMW for BWC-UMW was 6,624, with all eight districts reporting. For 2014, the membership count was 4,613, with five of the eight districts reporting. We have made progress.

Thank you District MNO's and Local Unit MNO's for your hard work. I know there are a lot of concerns about electronic usage and reporting, however, we will strive to continue to find ways to meet the challenges that technology poses, while being inclusive and moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne L. Hurd  
daphnelhurd@icloud.com

**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

**OUR SERVANT KING**

Jesus began his ministry by being hungry, **yet He is the Bread of Life.**

Jesus ended His earthy ministry by being thirsty, **yet He is the Living Water.**

Jesus was weary, **yet He is our rest.**

Jesus paid tribute, **yet He is the King.**

Jesus was accused of having a demon, **yet He cast out our demons.**

Jesus wept, **yet he wipes away our tears.**

Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver, **yet He redeemed the world.**

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, **yet He is the Good Shepherd.**

Jesus died, **yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.**

--by Gregory of Nazianzus (fourth century church father)



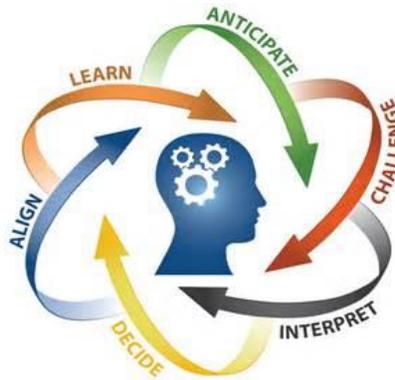
All God's blessings go together, like links in a golden chain. If He gives a converting grace, He will also give comforting grace. He will send "showers of blessing." Look up today, O parched plant, and open thy leaves and flowers for a heavenly watering.

--Charles H. Spurgeon

Gertrude White  
trudytil@aol.com

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*  
Philippians 4:13



Align, learn, anticipate, challenge, interpret, decide!

These are leadership skills afforded to United Methodist Women at every level of the organization. Ask yourself if you have the ability to align yourself with the Purpose of the UMW? Are you open to learning new skills and new things? Do you anticipate outcomes? Does a leadership position challenge your thought process? Does the opportunity to interpret by-laws and policies intrigue you? Are you capable of making decisions? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we may have an opportunity for you at the conference level.



The Committee on Nominations is accepting nominations for the following positions:

Treasurer  
Secretary  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
Committee on Nominations

To learn more about these opportunities,  
Contact Jeanette V. Thomas, Chairperson, at  
[Jeanettethomas1@verizon.net](mailto:Jeanettethomas1@verizon.net) or call 443-386-2389

## **SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES**



### **READING PROGRAM**

Order your books early for Mission u so that you can study before coming to the school. The books needed are: The Bible and Human Sexuality (for everyone), Latin America or Climate Justice, depending on which study you are taking. United Methodist Women's mission studies can be read for credit in the following categories: The Plenary (The Bible and Human Sexuality) for Spiritual Growth, the Geographic study (Latin America) for Education for Mission and Climate Justice for Social Action.

Reading is a way for us to fellowship together; share and discuss the books members are reading; taking reading program books to the retirement and nursing homes which can help to brighten their day. Parents, Grandparents and Sunday school teachers' books are available for children and youth.

Suggestions, recommendations, or comments about the Reading Program books can be sent to Brenda Thompson who is the Reading Program Specialist for the UMW National Office.

Reading Program  
United Methodist Women  
Room 1505  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York 10115  
Email: [bthompson@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:bthompson@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

Happy Reading,

Pamela Randall  
[pamelarandal53@yahoo.com](mailto:pamelarandal53@yahoo.com)

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**



**REPORT OF THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY LEGACY COMMITTEE**

Dear UMW Sisters,

Prayerfully you are all well and Praising God each day.

You may have heard or read about our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary which will take place in the year 2019. So, why are we discussing this now? We are in a five year planning process that started last year.

We have a team of dedicated people (United Methodist Women) who are working to make this THE EVENT in the history of the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women.

By including our young people; high school graduates, incoming college students and college graduates, we are preparing to meet this generation of youth and young people. We need them and they need us.

We are planning a Prayer Luncheon for them later in this year just before Thanksgiving, when they are home for the holiday.

We are in need of your help to implement this event. Early preparations will lead us to a successful and unforgettable event.

Kindly send us the following information to enable us to reach out to as many people as possible:

1. Full name of your youth/young person
2. Name of high school/college
3. Year finishing high school/college
4. Favorite color/song for our theme
5. Invite them with an open heart

Legacy Committee (Cont'd.)

We are planning to have prayer gift bags for them with care supplies in each; as a district or local unit could you please prayerfully consider filling our bags with these items listed below:

- Individual pocket cross
- Chap sticks
- Pens/mechanical pencils
- Our Purpose ( pocket size laminated )
- Individual hand sanitizer
- Sticky note pads
- High lighter
- Index cards
- Lip balm
- Sharpie
- Tissue papers ( for wrapping )
- Gift bags

Please, for questions contact: Daisy Farmer, [farmerdaisy66@gmail.com](mailto:farmerdaisy66@gmail.com) or call 301-776- 4622 and Georgina Kun-Sherman, [gsherma3@jhmi.edu](mailto:gsherma3@jhmi.edu), [kun.georgina@yahoo.com](mailto:kun.georgina@yahoo.com) or call 240-460-0794

Blessings to you,

Daisy M. Farmer  
Legacy Liaison  
[Farmerdaisy66@gmail.com](mailto:Farmerdaisy66@gmail.com)



© Can Stock Photo

### **BWC-UMW BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The BWC-UMW Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at the Conference Center. The investments are doing very well with an overall profit of 3% while money in the banks are only getting one tenth of 1% and War Bonds a little more than that. Because of our continued success (thanks to the direction of Doug Potter from Lombard Securities), we are able to donate the following:

- \$12,000 for the Scholarship Fund
- \$5,000 for Mission u to cover the costs for interpreters
- \$1,920 to cover the cost for each district to pay for one Youth to attend Mission u
- We give Baltimore Parish Works \$7,500 each quarter for their various projects.
- We are strongly considering donating \$20,000 to Susanna Wesley House. You may not know this but SWH consists of two buildings and one is in dire need of repair as it is deteriorating. The cost to restore this is \$3,000,000 and they want to hire a fund-raiser to do a feasibility study to determine if there are trusts and foundations that might help us. Several members of the Board of Trustees, me included, went to visit the SWH. The current building #609 is in excellent condition and now has a new partner to rent the facility. That partner is the Board of Child Care.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, at the Conference Center. We still do not have a representative for the Cumberland/Hagerstown area. Michelle Propst is our member from the Frederick District and if someone from Cumberland/Hagerstown would be willing to step up as their representative, Michelle would be more than glad to meet them and drive the rest of the way to the Conference Center. Thank you for considering this.

Susan Howes  
President  
showes@chesapeake.net

**ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT**

Dear UMW Sisters in Christ:

The Annapolis District UMW held their annual Spring Prayer Brunch on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church. Topic of the day was domestic violence. A group of us performed a skit about domestic violence, led by Daisy Farmer. We continued our ongoing baby shower and a carload of baby items were collected for the Emergency Baby Pantry of Food Link in Anne Arundel County. Paula Gordon, Director of Food Link, attended the Prayer Brunch and presented the Annapolis District with an award for many years of donations to the baby pantry. Paula also presented an award to the Pasadena UMW for twenty years of donations and it was graciously accepted by Judy Sparks, UMW President at Pasadena UMC. Many thanks to the wonderful women of Asbury Town Neck UMW for hosting the annual Prayer Brunch and thanks to all participants for bringing baby items for Food Link.

The Annapolis District UMW also plans to participate in the Anne Arundel County "Back to School Program" and donate back packs full of school supplies to low income children for the 2016-2017 school year.

Our Alice Bryant Scholarship has been reinstated this year and the Annapolis District will be awarding two \$1000 scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year. The applications are in and the committee, led by Judy Sparks, Annapolis District Education & Interpretation Coordinator, will be meeting very soon to decide on the recipients.

Several members of the Annapolis District UMW plan to attend the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting in Syracuse, New York, in June and many district members plan to attend Mission u in July.

Happy Spring and hope to see many of you at upcoming UMW events!

Blessings to all,

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

### **BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**

Greetings from the Baltimore Metropolitan District. We have been quite busy since the last newsletter. Being a new president has proven to be a whirl-wind experience. Most of the time I am not sure if I am coming or going, but with the Lord's help, I press on. During this period we sent a letter of introduction to the pastors of the 79 churches in our district. In the letter we introduced ourselves and asked that if there was not a UMW in their church, that they would give the letter to a woman in the church who could contact us. This effort helped us to connect with five churches so far. Plans are currently underway to help these units start or restart their units. We are committed to connecting or reconnecting with every church in our district by the end of the year. Keep praying for us.

We were able to hold our spring meeting, on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> at Ormes UMC. We chose a health theme and was blessed to have Dr. Tracey Murray, Dean and Professor of the College of Health and Director of the Health Center at Coppin State University. Dr. Murray proved to be very enlightening and gave us helpful health information. Several of the nursing students from Coppin accompanied Dr. Murray and offered the ladies blood pressure screenings.

During the spring meeting, we put out the call for prayer shawls and to date we have collected 16. I am pleased to say that we also sold 14 of the Legacy license plate covers. Finally it was decided that the offering collected at the spring meeting would be presented as a monetary donation to the Legacy fund and to Mrs. Barbara Matthews.

On Saturday May 7, 2016, the BMD lost our spiritual growth person, Delores "Pat" Chambers. She transitioned after a brief stay in hospice. While our hearts are heavy, we understand that Pat is in a better place, we know that the cares of this world no longer burden her and that she is safe in the arms of our Lord and Savior.

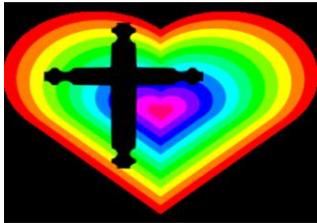
Delores "Pat" Chambers was a long standing member of the UMW, both in her local unit at Sharp Street Memorial and on the Baltimore Metropolitan District. She served as an active member as long as her health permitted. Even when she could not attend regular meetings, Pat still remained interested in the group's activities and continued to be supportive.

Delores "Pat" Chambers will always be remembered for her sweet smile and her willingness to do whatever she could for the United Methodist Women. Her memorial service is planned for Saturday May 21, 2016 at Sharp Street Memorial. 1206 Etting St., Baltimore, MD 21217. Family Hour: 10:00 a.m. - Memorial Service 11:00 am.

Love and blessings,

Gwendolyn Brooks, President  
gwndlynbrooks@aol.com

**BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT**



Greetings from the Baltimore Suburban United Methodist Women:

The women in BSD are in the midst of doing great things and partaking of great acts of faith in the name of Jesus the Christ. We are mimicking the actions of women in the Bible who through great acts of faith, supported the ministries of Jesus. Like Elizabeth, we are aiming to be upright in the sight of God and fully obedient to His will. Like Anna, we give thanks to God and speak about the Child to whom all look forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. And like Joanna, we support ministries out of our own means. I mention these matriarchs from the Bible to remind us all that as women and more specifically, United Methodist Women, our roles have never changed, just expanded. Women were always workers in the vineyard, and the women of the Baltimore Suburban District have continued this service and outreach as evidenced by our work in our communities, our work in our churches and our work throughout the world. When we cannot physically participate in a ministry, we send our prayers as we bear witness of our resurrected Lord.

Matthew 12:48-50 reveals the following: "48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

We have attempted to be that sister or that mother in performing the ministries God has placed in our hearts.

One of our goals this spring was to collect supplies for The Eastside Shelter in Rosedale, Maryland. Through hard work by women in the District, we collected three van loads of supplies for the shelter. To God be the Glory! Ninety women came to the Prayer Breakfast and we were overwhelmed by our speaker discussing the needs of a shelter that houses children. As we go forward this year, we will persevere to live out a quote by John Wesley "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

Baltimore Suburban District Spring Prayer Breakfast  
April 16, 2016 – Hereford UMC, Monkton, MD



BSD Team, April Stevens, Linda Yost, Nancy Randers-Pehrson



President Ruthella Lievers, Maury Thackston, April Stevens



**One of the tables that was filled with supplies.**

Ruthella Lievers, President  
[Ralievers1@comcast.net](mailto:Ralievers1@comcast.net)

**CENTRAL MARYLAND DISTRICT**

Dear UMW Sisters,

Greetings to you in the name of God our Creator and our Lord Jesus Christ! It is with joy that I speak to you today as interim President of the Central Maryland District and look forward to serving until October when, God willing, I will hand the reins over to another who will step up to this awesome leadership position.

Spring is here, and to celebrate Spring and our home here on Earth, your District UMW Leadership Team will be hosting a Prayer Breakfast on June 11, 2016, 8:30 a.m. at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723. The theme is "Climate Justice, Praying for Mother Earth", and we will have a wonderful speaker, Michael Koob, who will be teaching a Climate Justice class this summer at Mission u.

Your Central Maryland District Leadership Team is greatly in need of your support. There are a number of vacant positions which need to be filled as soon as possible if the Team is to function effectively: **President, Vice President, Treasurer, Social Action Coordinator, Program Resources Secretary, and Communications Coordinator.** I would ask that you prayerfully consider taking one of these positions. **It is of utmost importance that we fill the offices of President and Treasurer.** Training will be offered for all District Officers later this year. Indeed, upcoming training from our National Office UMW Treasurer, Martha Knight, is being provided for the BWC UMW Treasurers on July 16, 2016 from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm at the Conference Mission Center in Fulton, MD. Treasurers from all 8 District Leadership Teams as well as local treasurers who are new and/or need guidance, are being strongly encouraged to attend, along with District Presidents, Vice Presidents, and the Conference UMW Leadership Team. You may call or email me if you are interested in attending this training.

The Central Maryland District has been asked to donate **20 prayer shawls** in honor of Mrs. Barbara Matthews, the wife of Bishop Marcus Matthews. The BWC-UMW are involved in the farewell activities for Mrs. Matthews which will be celebrated on May 28, 2016, 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm at the Baltimore-Washington Mission Center. The prayer shawls are needed by Annual Conference in June and will be sent to Africa University in Zimbabwe to be given to the staff and students there in honor of Mrs. Matthews' ministry. A love offering from each District will be

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Central Maryland (Cont'd.)

submitted to Gilchrist Hospice, her favored charity. Please contact me at 410-239-0429 or 443-605-8295 if your unit can donate either prayer shawls or a gift to Gilchrist Hospice (check made payable to B-W Conference UMW Treasurer).

I would leave you with this message from Romans 12:4-6 – “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all members have the same function, so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another. We have different gifts according to the grace given us.” Blessings to you and yours!

Linda S. Yost, Interim President

[LJYost@verizon.net](mailto:LJYost@verizon.net)

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### **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 seminar which was held Saturday, February 20, 2016, at Silver Spring United Methodist Church (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 follow later on this project. Further the Power of Advocacy on behalf of domestic violence victims is being shown through a variety of ministries within the local GWD churches, as well as for climate justice and other 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 (Mt 28:18-20) NIV).

Geraldine J. Whitley

President

[jacksonwhitley@aol.com](mailto:jacksonwhitley@aol.com)

## **WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT**

As I look at our Calendar of Events, I see how full my calendar is—not only with UMW and church-related events but commitments to family and community that are important as well. With just getting over minor surgery and being a caretaker part-time for my mother-in-law, I wonder how I can do all this. But then I realize that my WED Leadership team is made up of a group of women who are truly the image of Christ. I see it in their actions and words and know we are all praying for each other every day. That goes for our BWC-UMW Conference Team as well. I don't know how long I will serve on the district or conference level but these ladies have truly become my Sisters in Christ. And with them and prayer we will continue to try to make a difference, one person, one event, at a time. I can honestly say that being a part of the United Methodist Women has changed my life.

The Washington East District has had a busy spring so far. We had a Cluster Meeting on **Church and People with Disabilities** that was very enlightening.

Pastor Geller did a great job explaining the importance of accepting and welcoming everyone into the Church of God. The UMW had a program on **Maternal Health** in April and we not only learned about the resources that are available to us in their county for young women who might be pregnant, but also how we can help them deal with all that is out there that they are exposed to. We need to try to help them to **"Choose the harder right over the easier wrong."** There is so much out there that they are exposed to that it made my toes curl. I am hoping that with God's help, the United Methodist Women can help our youth as they are faced with decisions to make.

Our Annual **Prayer Breakfast** was held on May 21 at Ward's Memorial UMC. Our guest speaker was Diane Griffin and our theme was **Stop the Violence**.

Several ladies and gentlemen are working on prayer shawls to turn into the conference. I hope that many of you are planning to attend **Mrs. Matthews Reception** on May 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be a great time to celebrate all that she has done in her ministry.

It is imperative that each unit send a photo of their UMW and an article about them, either current or history, for the **Journal** that is being published for our 150<sup>th</sup> UMW Legacy. This is for each unit in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The preferred deadline is **May 31, 2016**, however articles will be accepted into the summer months. Please email articles to Linda Yost at [LJYost@verizon.net](mailto:LJYost@verizon.net) who will be assisting in assembling the Journal.

The Primary Election will be over by the time this is printed but there is still much to do so that the people will vote in the general election. Remember that Jesus wants us to help one another - *"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or*

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*sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." James 2:14-17 (NIV)*

Susan Howes, President  
showes@chesapeake.net



1 Corinthians 13:13

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2 Samuel 23:4