



FAITH. HOPE. LOVE IN ACTION

THE FLAME

**THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

VOLUME III

SEPTEMBER 2016



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, Followers for Christ, on this wonderful day that the Lord has made. We are wonderfully created in the image of God and remember, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil.4:13

Thank you for your commitment to serving women, children and youth which was started by our foremothers several years ago. The work of UMW is focused on the mission set forth by Jesus Christ and expressed through our Purpose as well as our vision of turning faith, hope and love into action. We must continue to advocate for social justice and help transform the lives of others and the community through hands-on ministry.

I have travelled throughout the Conference, listening to the voices of women, children and youth who expressed their appreciation for the services provided by United Methodist Women in the districts and local units. Though our work and training we are to prepare leaders to engage in mission with the community.

The President (Cont'd.)

A Conference-wide treasurer training was provided by Martha Knight, Director for Finance with the UMW National Office. Back to basics financial training was provided for 65 officers from the conference, district and local units. This was an opportunity to teach and demonstrate the financial process for integrity in the management of funds.

Sixty plus women from the Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW attended the Northeast Jurisdiction Meeting on June 16-18, 2016. The theme: "A Fresh Wind Blowing" was the highlight for each gathering. The opening session was spectacular beginning with flying kits from various conferences held by their presidents and team members showing special art works. The BWC-UMW kite decorations consisted of logos from the eight districts, the names of each district president, and also the Conference leadership team members. At the NEJ-UMW, Colleen Cates was elected as a board member to the National UMW Board of Directors and Mikele Haskins-Delmore was elected Vice President for the NEJ Leadership Team (2016-2020). We are very proud of their achievement.

As Conference UMW President, I participated in the Northeastern Jurisdiction for the United Methodist Church, July 12-15, 2016 and witnessed the outgoing celebration for Bishop Marcus Matthews/Mrs. Barbara Mathews, and the election of two black female bishops: Rev. La'Trelle Miller Easterling as the Episcopal Leader for the Baltimore-Washington Conference; and Rev. Cynthia Moore Koikoi. Our new bishops support the work of UMW.

Soon we will gather for our Annual Celebration at Towson UMC, 501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286, on October 22, 2016. The Leadership Team which consists of conference and district leaders, will play an important role in the success for our meeting. Please encourage your district and local units to participate. Districts with youth and young adults in attendance will be recognized with a special award.

The Wesley Learning Committee in partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary engaged in a mission activity with students from the Preachers' School. The students stuffed back-to-school bags that will be sent to UMCOR.

As we close out 2016, District Presidents are asked to please provide a summary report on the progress your local units have made on each of the five initiatives and send in your report by the end of the year, 2016. This is one way to document our mission history in the BWC-UMW. Also, include pictures of events.

Special thanks to the district presidents for their willingness to coordinate their district's annual celebrations. This will allow the Conference UMW Leadership Team to be present and participate **as needed**. Please email your 2017 scheduled dates before September 10, 2016.

The President (Cont'd.)

The Blanche Powell Memorial United Nations Seminar 2016 will be held November 20-22, 2016 in New York City. The theme, Mass Incarceration, will become one of the initiatives for 2017. This information is located on the conference website.

Reminder to all District Officers - in preparation for the annual celebration program booklet, kindly remember that the following information is needed by September 15, 2016 to your respective Conference Officer: Memorials; Five Star Units; Reading Program Participants; and Mission Today Units.

Conference Officers need to submit their information for the program booklet to Gertrude White, Communications Coordinator (trudytil@aol.com) by September 30th: Proposed Slate of 2017 Officers; Treasurer's Report; Memorials; Five Star Units; Reading Program Participants (churches and Reading Program Level); Mission Today Units; Trustees Report. We value your support in this request.

God bless you as we continue to function as members of one body in Christ.

Peace and Blessing,
Elizabeth M. Stemley

VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to you, my Sisters in Christ!

It was a true pleasure to see so many of you at Mission u in July. It was also an honor to teach one of the Climate Justice classes to 30 of you. We had great discussion, music, laughter, and worship. Imagine my delight when, during the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, the issue of global warming was presented! The word is getting out there, slowly, that our wonderful Earth is in trouble, and each of us needs to do our part in turning this warming trend around to provide a healthier environment for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Although it does not seem possible, especially with this extremely hot weather we have had to endure, the summer will soon come to an end, and our Conference UMW Annual Celebration, scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., will be upon us before we know it. The Baltimore Metropolitan District will host our Celebration at Towson United Methodist Church, 501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286. In lieu of a speaker, we thought it would be exciting to

Vice President (Cont'd.)

have each District highlight one Local Unit's efforts in one of the following Conference UMW initiatives: Domestic Violence and Abuse, Charter for Racial Justice-Voter Registration, Maternal Health, Disabilities-Church Audits, Immigration, Human Trafficking, and the 150th Anniversary Legacy Fund.

This year's outreach mission will concentrate on Health and Maternal Health. We are kindly asking that you bring one or more of the following items:

- Knitted or crocheted infant hats for local hospitals
- Quilted, knitted or crocheted lap blankets for local nursing homes
- Birthing kits – see list of items to donate in Part 2 of this newsletter

After lunch, there will be opportunities to carpool to a local hospital or a nursing home, and deliver the hats and lap blankets. If you would rather remain at the church, we will assemble birthing kits after lunch. These kits will be taken to the Bentley Springs Hub to be distributed to areas of greatest need.

Look for a reservation flyer in Part 2 of this Flame.

District Presidents – Please mark your calendars – Officer training for all District Leadership Team officers will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2017, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the Conference Center in Fulton, MD, followed by a two-hour Planning Retreat, ending at 3:00 p.m. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR ENTIRE LEADERSHIP TEAM TO ATTEND, AND ESPECIALLY THE NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT OFFICERS. THANK YOU!

May the love of our Lord Jesus Christ surround you this day and give you peace.

Blessings,
Linda S. Yost
LJYost@verizon.net



SECRETARY

I pray you have been able to appreciate some of God's beautiful creation during these hot summer months. Attending Mission u is always an informative, enjoyable part of my summer. It is always a pleasure to see other attendees from across the conference each year. It was also a pleasure to meet with 14 secretaries, both district and local, from across our conference, at our secretary session at Mission u. We shared what was happening in our districts and it was exciting to learn of some of the projects our units and districts are doing to help women, children and youth across our conference.

We also discussed four "United Methodist Women Editing Guidelines" from the United Methodist Women's Secretary Handbook.

- Always use the word "children" and not "kids" unless "kids" is part of a project name.
- "United Methodist Women's Social Network" is the correct reference for our social network. Use the full name on the first reference and "social network" on other references.
- Use "United Methodist Women's Reading Program" on the first reference to the Reading Program or related books, and "Reading Program" on other references.
- Do not use the word "on" with dates. CORRECT: "United Methodist Women's Assembly will take place April 30-May 2." INCORRECT: "Opening worship for Assembly on April 30 will include a variety of worship styles."

I pray your fall Annual Celebrations will indeed be glorious celebrations of the work that we do as United Methodist Women. Remember to send me the list of your 2017 officers after they are elected.

Blessings,

Rita Green, Secretary
ritamgreen@hotmail.com



SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Daily Checklist for a *Happy Christian*

- ✓ Don't let little things disturb you.
- ✓ Face each day knowing "Jesus does all things well."
- ✓ Give all your cares to Jesus.
 He heals - He guards - He guides - He saves completely!
- ✓ Stop worrying! Do good, and then let the Father,
 Son, and Holy Spirit give the results in your life.
- ✓ Remember -- what you think is "impossible",
 to God, is nothing more than a passing breeze.
- ✓ Trust Jesus that everything will be okay.
 For it's better to trust, than to doubt and miss a blessing.
- ✓ Do not do God's work for Him.
 He convicts; He convinces; He will be the Judge.
- ✓ Look for the good in everyone, and don't find fault.
- ✓ Live so that all who meet you, meet Jesus.
- ✓ Know that Jesus is with you and nothing else matters!

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Zilpha Pinkney
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
zapinkney@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

*"O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant,
and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name,
and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy ..."*

Nehemiah 1:11

Grace, Peace and Blessings to All!

CENSUS REPORTING UPDATE

National office will continue using the online UMW Membership Census Data Gathering Tool implemented in 2016. This tool will help National UMW to capture more information about the districts and local units in the various conferences. Sally Vonner, Assistant General Secretary, Membership & Leadership Development, attended the BWC Mission u and participated in the MNO Officer Update. She spoke to the MNO District Officers who attended the update, on the merits of the new system. She stated "the data gathered will give National UMW a total picture of the communities served." They are aware of challenges facing units, therefore, they are willing to help anyone who calls on them for help in using the new data collection system.

We will be allowed to input information in the new system as early as September. I will be asking Conference President, District Presidents and MNO Officers to partner with me to find a way to "electronically" collect data. We face a challenge, however, I am confident we will succeed. Once the information has been collected, it will be a matter of updating the data annually. I ask for your prayers and patience as we undertake this effort.

For more information or to preview and/or to become familiar with the data system visit the 2016 UMW Membership Census at:

[https://unitedmethodistwomen-public.sharepoint.com/.](https://unitedmethodistwomen-public.sharepoint.com/)

NEW MEMBERSHIP EXECUTIVE APPOINTED

Kia Shaw has been named the Executive for Membership.

Peace and Joy as we work to fulfill our Purpose.

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

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

**"...judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."
Proverbs 31:9**

BWC Conference Projects: The B-W Conference Projects booklet was updated in June 2016. Distribution of the updates is through UMW District Presidents and Education and Interpretation Coordinators. We strive to maintain close mission relationships with our eight Projects, and were blessed to have their participation in the *Mission Marketplace* during *Mission u 2016* in Bethesda, MD. Our Conference Projects and their locations are:

Baltimore Parish Work
3801 Schaper Drive
Randallstown MD 21133

Epworth House Mission Project
4500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc
146 Bedford Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Scholarship Fund, United Methodist
Women
11711 East Market Place
Fulton, MD 20759

Shenandoah Women's Center, Inc.
236 West Martin Street,
Martinsburg, West VA 25401

The Shepherd's Staff
30 Carroll Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Susanna Wesley House
609 Park Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201

YWCA, Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
1517 Ritchie Highway
Arnold, MD 21012

UMW Giving: To UMW Districts: Has each local unit both submitted and made their *Pledge to Mission* for 2016? If your answer is "Yes," wonderful! In your 2017 plans for giving at local unit, district, and conference levels, be mindful of the various UMW avenues for giving. Visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org for information on undesignated/designated giving, the UMW Legacy Fund, and other UMW planned giving options, e. g., stocks/bonds, insurance, bank accounts, real estate, cash, etc.

Mission Today Unit Checklist Competition: The *2016 Mission Today Unit Checklist Competition* will end as of August 31. UMW Districts are encouraged to work with their local units to ensure we have a robust competition for the three available prizes. Which District will be the recipient of the Mission Today Crystal Award by having the largest number of local units *qualifying* for Mission Today Unit Checklist certification at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels? Go for it!

Education & Interpretation (Cont'd.)

Report Submissions: Annual reports are now due as follows: From UMW local units to responsible UMW district officers by Sep 1, 2016; from UMW district officers to responsible conference officers by Sep 15, 2016; and from conference officers to Gertrude White, Conference Communications Coordinator, by September 30, 2016. These dates - set by the Conference Leadership Team - cover the Reading Program, Diversity Today Units, 5 Star Units, Mission Today Unit Checklist, Mission Today Checklist Competition, etc.

And, now, let us continue in our tradition of faith, hope, and love in action!

"...and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." Hebrews 12:2

Ann Price
Education and Interpretation Coordinator
pricefa@verizon.net

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES



The District Annual meeting is important to recognize those who have achieved levels of reading in the program, especially for those who have read Plan 4. There is a certificate for the reading program under the unitedmethodistwomen.org and changes can be made. Think about awards for those who have read the most books. Books are available several years back that can still be read for credit. Thanks coordinators for all you do in making sure the books are available for each event.

Its takes a lot of work. The resources help to strengthen and extend the work of the United Methodist Women.

Pamela Randall
Secretary of Program Resources
Pamelarandall53@yahoo.com

COMMUNICATIONS



HARVEST TIME

*Harvest time has come again,
And gathering days are here,
The Autumn leaves are falling,
The Winter's cold is near.
The seeds sown in the springtime
Have turned to yellow grain;
We gather now and store for use
'Til harvest comes again.*

*The trees will soon be bare and shorn
Of their autumnal coat;
And soon will stand, their leafless forms
Stark, silent, and remote.
But they are only sleeping
Waiting for the touch of Spring;
Soon back will come the coat of green,
And songbirds on the wing.*

*Now sow the seeds of truth, my friend,
Ere harvest comes again,
And God will send the sunshine,
He also sends the rain.
When sowing days are over,
And harvest days have come,
He'll gather in the golden grain
To His eternal home.*

Nona Mae Coone

Committee on Nominations

Leadership inherently leads to the success of any organization. It is because of effective leadership and commitment that United Methodist Women has existed for so many years. To equip and position its leaders for success, leadership training is provided by the national office at several locations during the fall and winter months, and locally within your districts by the conference and district leadership teams.



Throughout the year, committee members solicit nominations for potential leaders. When more than one nomination is received for the same position, the committee will review each nomination and make a proposal based upon the several factors such as term and tenure of the nominee, demographics, the age of the nominee and any factors that will provide a diversified team which represents the membership.

Forty-five days prior to the Annual Celebration, the Committee on Nominations will publish the slate of officers for your review. This slate will be presented for a vote during the Annual Celebration in October. In addition to the proposed slate, nominations may be accepted from the floor. If this occurs, the Committee on Nominations will determine the eligibility of the nominee before a vote is taken.

Time is running out to let the Committee on Nominations know of your desire to become a part of the leadership team. You may nominate yourself or someone else for secretary and/or Committee on Nominations member. We invite you to "Get on Board."

Jeanette V. Thomas
Chair, Nominations
Jeanettethomas1@verizon.net
Or call 443-386-2389

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



REPORT OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY LEGACY COMMITTEE

Dear Legacy Team,

First I want to thank all who participated in the New Legacy Campaign at Mission u.

We had about 20 women who came forward and donated. Most donated for the next four years. We had an increase in membership to the Legacy Fund. We have a total to date of 55 members. For the month of July the donations were \$1,000,000. I am sure as we tell the story of UMW more will come forward.

I am encouraged by the communication of our leaders from the National Office in providing materials to assist in this campaign. When we started in 2014 we decided to make a \$ 20,000,00 pledge over the course of five years. It is very important that when you make a donation that you make it to the Baltimore-Washington Conference Legacy Pledge so that we get the credit.

Included in the Flame there is a flyer highlighting the 2016 event. I am encouraged by the participation from the young women who has taken on this year's event. I am also encouraged by their willingness and dedication to keep the Legacy of the United Methodist Women going for the next 150 years. They created the flyer and information for the upcoming event is included. We continue to ask for assistance from all districts to give names and contact information of other young women and youth so we can invite them to the New Uni-Tea. We need this information by mid-September or sooner. Information can be sent to contacts on flyer. I am always available.

Legacy Team (Cont'd.)

Please continue to send information for 2017 Journal. This is a way of leaving a legacy of your person or church for the next generation of United Methodist Women.

To Kia, Catherine and Kunda many thanks and great job.

Respectfully submitted,

Daisy M. Farmer
Baltimore-Washington Conference Legacy Liaison
Farmerdaisy66@gmail.com

BWC-UMW BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Board of Trustees were able to donate \$5,000 to Mission u for interpreters if needed. We also were able to donate enough funds to pay for one youth from each District to attend Mission u. I was pleased to see that our Youth attendance was much higher this year.

At our next board meeting, September 13, we will be updating our By-Laws to reflect that we are a part of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. At the end of the year, I will no longer hold the position of President of the Trustees. Rosetta Daniels will be the representative for the Washington East District. We will have a list of our officers for 2017 in the next edition of the Flame. As of this date, we still do not have a representative for the Cumberland-Hagerstown District. Again, we are very appreciative of Mr. Doug Potter who is our representative from Lombard Securities Incorporated. He has been an excellent guide in advising us regarding our funds.

Susan Howes
President
showes@chesapeake.net

ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT

Dear UMW Sisters in Christ.

The Annapolis District awarded two \$1000 scholarships from our Alice Bryant Scholarship Fund for the 2016-2017 school years. The scholarships were awarded to Rachel Thomas of Asbury Broadneck UMC and Amber Lee Spriggs of Carter's UMC. Congratulations to both of the recipients.

Many thanks to Judy Sparks, our Education & Interpretation Coordinator, and her committee, for getting this program up and running.

Ten members of the Annapolis District attended the Northeastern Jurisdictional UMW meeting in Syracuse, NY, in June and found it to be very inspirational.

Twenty-eight members of the Annapolis District attended Mission u the end of July. It was held at the Pooks Hill Marriott in Bethesda, MD. We had six youth attending and studied The Bible and Human Sexuality, Latin America: People of Faith and Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action.

The Annapolis District is participating in the Back to School Program sponsored by Anne Arundel County Social Services. Vera Miller, our Social Action Coordinator, headed up this project. We donated 70 backpacks full of school supplies to low-income students in Anne Arundel County. Vera, Charlotte Green, Annapolis Cluster Leader and I delivered the backpacks to Shady Side Elementary, Tracey's Elementary and Germantown Elementary on August 9th. Thanks to Vera for organizing this venture and doing a great job.

The Annapolis District Annual Meeting will be held on October 8th at Nichols-Bethel UMC in Odenton.

Blessings to all

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

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Greetings to all of my fellow United Methodist Women. As usual we have been very busy in the Baltimore Metropolitan District. We continue to work with several new and restart units and we ask for your prayers in this endeavor.

I attended two UMW local unit events. St. Matthew's Turner Station held a pledge service. This unit is restarting with a new president. Monica Jones is one of our younger women and she is eager to get things going at St. Matthew's Turner Station. Epworth celebrated their annual UMW Day. The president there is Lydia McCargo Redd. Lydia is an enthusiastic woman who is very serious about her responsibilities as the leader of this unit. Both events were well attended and warmed my heart.

This year I was blessed to attend the Northeastern Jurisdiction for the first time. This opportunity was very spirit filled and exciting. I met many women from all walks of life and they renewed my faith and hope for the future of the United Methodist Women. If you have not attended a Northeastern Jurisdiction, I highly recommend you do.

As the Baltimore Metropolitan District continues our mission of serving women youth and children, plans are underway for our fall meeting to be held on September 17, 2016 at John Wesley UMC.

Finally we hope to see everyone at the Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW Annual Celebration at Towson UMC on October 22, 2016. We are the host district and look forward to this experience.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16



Love and blessings,

Gwendolyn Brooks, President
gwndlynbrooks@aol.com

BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT



Greetings Sisters in Christ. "The Lord bless thee and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." – Numbers 6:24-26

We have had a sprit-filled year and continue to experience the joy that originates from God daily in our lives. I just wanted to let our sisters who missed our Spring Prayer Breakfast or summer newsletter to know it was an eye-opening experience. We learned about needy women and children right here in our community in Baltimore County. The Eastside Shelter assists families with children with food, shelter, housing, case management, and other services.

In June we attended The Northeastern Jurisdiction UMW Quadrennial Meeting experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit during the worship service and the Break-out sessions.



In July members of your district team were on fire and filled with enthusiasm when they returned from Mission u.

This spring and summer we have reveled in graduations, barbeques, flew flags, walked on beaches, said farewell to friends and celebrated new lives.



Baltimore Suburban (Cont'd.)

As the summer winds down and vacations come to an end. Let us do a marvelous thing and commit ourselves to focus doing what we do best. Express our love of God through the work for others. Let us advance and surpass all of our goals towards the Missions entrusted to our care. We are never too old or too young to make a difference in someone's life. We can always take five minutes to make a call and tell someone we are praying for them. We can always pray for someone on a sick list. For those who can do more remember, "Many hands make light work." No tasks are too great when we work together. There is no obstacle we cannot overcome with Jesus on our side. The sky is the limit.

This is the time to affirm our commitment to the missions that support the needs of women and children locally, nationally, and globally. Our goal is to continue to follow the advice and wisdom of John Wesley to "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."

Our Fall Meeting is being held on September 24, 2016, 9:00 am at Clarks UMC in Belair, MD. The address is 2001 Kalmia Road, Belair, MD 21015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruthella Lievers, President
Ralievers1@comcast.net



CENTRAL MARYLAND DISTRICT

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior!

It was a blessing to see a gathering of sisters from our District at Mission u in July. I had the privilege of facilitating a class about Climate Justice this year, and I hope to do the same again next year. The classrooms on Latin America were very colorful, and the Plenary subject, *The Bible and Human Sexuality*, was thought-provoking and eyebrow-raising ☺ The music was excellent, and our Saturday evening entertainment had some of us dancing! I also had the pleasure of meeting with a number of Vice Presidents from around the Conference. We shared our concerns and joys of our office.

Our Central Maryland District Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2016, at Wesley Freedom UMC, 961 Johnsville Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and lunch after the program. I am excited to announce that our guest speaker will be **Rev. Brian Jackson, Pastor of Randall Memorial UMC in Northeast Washington, DC**, who will give a presentation on his involvement with prison ministry. This promises to be a very heartrending yet Spirit-filled program as Rev. Jackson shares some of his life experiences from his time "on the streets."

Our Nominating Committee has been striving to complete a Slate of Officers for the 2017 District Leadership Team, and I believe you will be pleased with the talented women who are coming on board. You will meet and vote them in at our Annual Meeting. As of today, there are still a few offices to be filled. More information regarding these vacancies will be sent to you soon in the CMD Newsletter, "The Buzzzz." Please prayerfully consider stepping out in faith to join your Leadership Team as it prepares to boldly explore new ideas and new initiatives.

All Local Unit UMW Presidents are invited to join your District Leadership Team for a Planning Retreat at West River Center, West River, MD, on Friday, November 4th - 5th, 2016. More information will be provided in "The Buzzzz" soon.

I am looking for a Local Unit that would like to highlight a project it has been working on over the last year or so, to be presented at the Conference Annual Celebration on October 22, 2016. This project should be centered around one of the following Conference initiatives: Domestic Violence and Abuse, Disabilities (church audit), Charter for Racial Justice

Central Maryland District (Cont'd.)

(voter registration, etc.), Health and Maternal Health. All Districts are being invited to share one of their mission emphases with regard to these initiatives. DON'T BE SHY! Give me a call (410-239-0429) or email me.

May God keep you in His care. Hope to see you soon. Blessings to all!

Linda S. Yost
Interim President
LJYost@verizon.net

CUMBERLAND-HAGERSTOWN DISTRICT

As a district we were saddened by the death of N. Sharon Leatherman. Sharon was a model for us to follow as we continue to put our faith into action. She will be missed by the district mission team and by all those who knew her. Cumberland-Hagerstown will move forward knowing that Sharon continues to guide our actions.

The fall meeting will be held on October 8, 2016 at Centre Street UMC in Cumberland. Taness Cline from the Family Crisis Resource Program will present the program. The spring meeting will be a combined meeting with the Frederick District. Michelle Propst and I are working together to coordinate this meeting. Our plan for the program is to have Mike and Sherri Koob present Climate Justice with an update on the "Earthkeepers" Program.

I was very happy to be in attendance at Mission u. Thank you Zilpha, Andrea Ross was an unexpected treasure as a roommate.

Vivian Moore, President
vcmoore@atlanticbb.net

ATTENTION DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

All updated and correct District Officer Listings are due to Gertrude White, Communications, by December 1, for the 2017 BWC-UMW Telephone Directory. Please use the two column format using Rockwell #12. Thank you so much. Any questions, 301-656-9116. trudytil@aol.com

GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT

Hello God's Children,

This writer praises God that the Greater Washington District sponsored two youth from Asbury United Methodist Church, Washington, DC, to Mission u, which was held in Bethesda, Maryland, July 29-31, 2016. We all received wonderful enrichment for our souls and ideas for ministries throughout the year. The workshops were filled to capacity with participants who provided insightful feedback to facilitators and participants. The youth participated in many of the services and activities. They were wonderful. It was good to have provided the opportunity for Greater Washington youth to be involved in such a delightful outreach service.

The local churches remain optimistic and spirit-filled with a desire and a zest for mission. Christ United Methodist Church in Southwest Washington, DC is visible in the neighborhood through its ministry to homeless shelters, its assorted greeting card ministry to the sick and shut-in, providing information on domestic violence awareness, voter registration drive, prayer and Bible study, attendance at most conference-related activities and is supporting the UMW 150th Anniversary Legacy campaign.

Other churches in the Greater Washington District (GWD) continue to be visible in the community through their outreach ministries. We give God the praise for the opportunities and the resources to be in ministry through returning felons, prison ministries, assistance to at-risk children, youth, and families. As the churches in the Greater Washington District community of faith align themselves with servant leadership as modeled by Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV), we perform various hospitality ministries addressing the need for food, clothing, social services, advocacy, and tutoring services (Asbury UMC, Washington, DC); Some of the churches are reaching out to those persons that are serving as caregivers for the home bound (Emory Fellowship UMC, Washington, DC). Other churches are providing backpacks for weekend meals for needy children (Good Shepherd UMC, Silver Spring, MD); Churches in the GWD are using the Prayer Calendar to keep connected with missionaries serving around the world (Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant UMC, Rockville, MD). Finally, Gethsemane UMC, Capitol Heights, MD, is hosting a Domestic Workshop on September 23-25, 2016. These spirit-filled ministries ensure us that collectively we can change lives through the dictates of the Holy Spirit.

The Greater Washington District is praying that we can continue to practice radical hospitality as exemplified by Jesus Christ in our daily practices and love for our neighbor (Matthew 22: 37-40 NIV). Furthermore, we are spreading the news of the UMW Legacy campaign in an effort to bring new and younger workers into the

Greater Washington (Cont'd.)

vineyard of servant leadership. Finally, GWD is also exercising the Power of Advocacy for earth science or environmental justice. We pray that God's mercy and grace continue to embrace you as we work for the kingdom of God.

Geraldine J. Whitley, President
jacksonwhitley@aol.com

WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT

Summer is almost over; heat and humidity will be behind us. It's also time to fill up all the fall activities as well as time to get in all your information and statistics as we prepare for our annual Celebrations with Districts and our BWC Conference. Our budgets and pledges have been submitted to the Conference as we anticipate 2017 coming around the corner.

The WED is planning a fundraiser for the 150 Legacy Fund. During the NE Jurisdiction we were asked for each UMW member to write a check for \$18.60 each year for the five years of celebration to ensure that the UMW will continue for the next 150 years. To honor their request for \$18.69, the Washington East District is going to **WALK 4 Women, Youth and Children** on Saturday, October 29th at the Charles County Mall in Waldorf. This is a great location – they open at 7:00 a.m., for the early birds, the weather will not be an issue, you can walk as much or as little you wish. You can even bring your wheel chairs or rollators! You can stop walking and do some shopping while you are there. We will have Washington East District UMW with the Cross and Flame on the front using two colors. On the back will be the name of your church and the back with also has two columns, one column is for In Memory Of and the other is for In Honor Of. Each member that is listed, we will ask for \$18.69. These funds will go to the UMW Legacy Fund.

This year was the first time that I have attended the NE Jurisdiction. It was wonderful to be with my fellow sisters with the Baltimore-Washington Conference and to meet so many other UMW members from Maine to Maryland. Our next event will be to attend the U N Seminar in November and I hope to see many of you there as well.

I have had the honor to be the Key Note Speaker at Ebenezer UMC in August to share a message about Faith, Hope and Love in Action. Also this week I am working with the children in Vacation Bible School. It is just a joy to see our

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children get excited about our Lord Jesus Christ. As our Bible says in Lamentations 3: 22-23 "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Susan Howes
President
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life is too short,
grudges are a waste of perfect happiness.
LAUGH WHEN YOU CAN
apologize when you should
and let go of what you can't change.
love deeply and **FORGIVE QUICKLY.**
take chances, give everything
and have **no** regrets.
life is too short to be unhappy.
you have to take the good with the bad.
SMILE WHEN YOU'RE SAD
love what you got
and always remember what you had.
always forgive but never forget.
learn from your mistakes
but never regret.
people change, and things go wrong
BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER
LIFE GOES ON!

SOCIAL ACTION

Greetings Sisters,

Social Action was at the forefront at Mission U this year with one of the two studies, Climate Justice, in our area. Our own vice president, Linda Yost, was one of the teachers. Michael Koob, husband of UMW member Sherry Koob, was another. We also had a fascinating Discovery Room with lots of information and activities relating to Climate Justice put together by Daphne Hurd, with help from me and Marva Bigelow. Interfaith Power and Light, an environmental organization, was present at the Mission Market Place and is available to put on programs for you. If you are interested in a program on Climate Justice for your District or your Unit, contact me or Linda Yost.

Another social action initiative current right now is UMW election questions by jurisdiction. See the unitedmethodistwomen.org/actionalertelection2016 for questions we should be presenting to our candidates. Also be aware of any voter registration campaigns coming up. I will let you know about ones I hear about.

The other issue we are asked to take action on by our General Board of Church and Society is ending gun violence. They have invited all churches in the conference to participate in activities they are organizing to advocate for Gun Control. **On Sunday, September 25th, there will be a Concert Across America to End Gun Violence.** GBCS is putting together worship materials on this theme for that Sunday as well. Another idea is a "die-in" with people lying down but holding up placards with information giving facts about gun violence. They are looking for churches to work with them, especially churches where gun ownership is high. Beth Reilly, conference advocate for this campaign, wants your name **if you can help get your church involved. Contact her at breilly@umc-gbcs.org.** Micah 4:3-4 tells us " ...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, **and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken."**

At this critical time in our nation and our world, as children of God, we are all called on to do what we can to end this vicious cycle of violence we seem to be caught in. May God give us wisdom, courage and energy to act.

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