



# **THE CONNECTION**

## **Newsletter of the Rappahannock River District United Methodist Women**

Number 005

October 2017

Deborah Dietrich, Editor

### **FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

I am filled with excitement when I think back over our Rappahannock River District UMW Annual meeting on September 23rd at St. Matthias UMC. What a great day we had, not only in the weather, but also in the spirit of fellowship that filled our midst. It was a joy, as always, to have our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Ted Smith, and also Pastor Pat Toney there to share the day with us. Gloria Whitley, our speaker from Choices Women's Center/Fredericksburg Pregnancy Center, share some vital information in relation to our UMW focus on maternal and child health. The question & answer session that followed provided additional helpful information.

I am also filled with excitement as I think back about the recognition that was given for all the mission efforts across the Rappahannock River District UMW. You will want to read Barbara Swingle's article to learn about the success of units when measured against the Living Into Our Purpose form. You will also want to read Cathy White's article about the Reading Program Success. From Jerri Anne Cooper, you will read about the success of five-star units, six- star units, Candleburing, Rainbow, and Legacy Fund giving. I encourage you to continue working with Peggy Schlegelmilch to more accurately record the membership of the Rappahannock River District United

Methodist Women. We want each one of the dedicated efforts of our UMW Sisters to be recognized.

I am filled with gratitude for the many hands that worked hard to prepare for and to help execute the Annual meeting. Without these helping hands behind the scenes, our day would not have been as pleasant nor as productive. I give thanks for the Rappahannock River District UMW Mission Team who worked to prepare all the reports and presentations for the meeting. I give thanks to all the workers a St. Matthias UMW who said, "I'll help!" when asked to host the District UMW Annual meeting. I am also filled with gratitude for all the Rappahannock River District UMW Sisters who attended the Annual Meeting, asked questions, voiced opinions, and participated in all aspects of the meeting. Your feedback is essential to the ongoing success of the Rappahannock River District UMW and I thank you for it. For those of you who were unable to attend, we missed you!

Our 2017 events are not over with the Annual Meeting. We still have the District UMW Harvest Prayer Breakfast on November 4th. Registration forms for these events were included in the President's packet (available at the Annual meeting) and emailed to the local presidents. The District UMW Advent Prayer Breakfast will be held on December 2nd. The registration form for this event will be available at the Harvest Prayer Breakfast.

I look forward to sharing these events with all my Rappahannock River District UMW Sisters. See you there!

Blessings,  
Julia Meade "JM" Gallier  
540-775-2027  
[jmkg5580@va.metrocast.net](mailto:jmkg5580@va.metrocast.net)

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Happy Fall! The Season of changing leaves, cooler weather and Harvest Festivals have arrived.

As the Fall season begins with all the preparations of family dinners and visions of turkey legs for Thanksgiving, there are two more events scheduled for the District Women.

The first is on November 3rd. It is the Harvest Prayer Breakfast at Henderson UMC.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., breakfast starts at 9 a.m., (Each unit bring two of your favorite breakfast dishes. If you have the district cookbook, try one of the many "yummy" recipes.) and the program starts at 10 a.m.

The next event is the Advent Prayer Breakfast on December 2nd at Register Chapel UMC. See the flyer and registration sent with this newsletter via email.

"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever."  
Psalm 107:1 NIV.

Blessings,  
Pam Hiller  
540-288-9511  
[hillerpam@hotmail.com](mailto:hillerpam@hotmail.com)

## **TREASURER**

After the third quarter remittance was sent to Conference, we have sent 63.6% of our Pledge to Mission for 2017. We have one quarter to make up the deficit and meet our Pledge of \$40,000 for the calendar year.

Now the good news from our District Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the 31 units who achieved 5 and 6 star Mission Giving status! Certificates were presented at our District Annual Meeting. The units earning 5 Star Mission Giving Certificates are Eastland, Fletcher's Chapel, Galilee, Kilmarnock, Peace, Tabernacle and White Stone. The units earning 6 Star Mission Giving Certificates are Afton, Andrew Chapel Brooke, Andrew Chapel Montross, Carmel, Coles Point, Colonial Beach, Emmanuel, Fredericksburg, Henderson, Hillcrest, Hopewell, Irvington, Mizpah, New Hope, Providence, Register Chapel, Rehoboth, Remington, Shepherds, Shiloh, St. Matthias, Trinity King George, Warsaw, and Zion.

Thank you to our Rainbow Givers who contributed at least sixty dollars above their regular mission giving. We had 24 Rainbow Givers this year. Our Rainbow Givers are Annette Ashton (Trinity King George), Carole Blackley (Warsaw), Pat Blosser (Fredericksburg), Jerri Anne Cooper (Trinity King George), Anne Crowder (Henderson), Sue Curlings (Rehoboth), Sue Dameron (Irvington), Patsy Delano (Afton), Debbie Dietrich (Warsaw), Charlotte Edge (Fredericksburg), Edna Edmondson (Colonial Beach), Lynn Embry (Carmel), Mary Frame (New Hope), Julia Meade Gallier (Trinity King George), Carol Hammer (Afton), Pam Hiller (Andrew Chapel Brooke), Carol Kuty (Fredericksburg), Nokomis Lemons (Shepherds), Annette McDonald (Rehoboth), Brenda Scott (Peace), Pam Smith (Shiloh), Sherri Stadler (Tabernacle), Barbara Swingle (Andrew

Chapel Brooke) and Cathy White (Andrew Chapel Montross). Pins were presented at our District Annual Meeting

Our Candleburning Offering for this year was \$5374.52. We had 26 units participate. At 60 cents per second, the candle burned at our Annual Meeting for 8957.533 seconds or 2 hours, 29 minutes and 17.533 seconds. The time our candle was lit represents the length of time United Methodist Women mission work is supported through our Candleburning Offering.

Another opportunity for giving this year was the Legacy Fund. On March 23, 2019, UMW will celebrate 150 years of serving women, children and youth worldwide. The Legacy Fund is an endowment to pass on the legacy of the 150 years we have inherited to future UMW members and ministries for the next 150 years. We had 11 individuals and 7 units contribute to the Legacy Fund through the district. Our speaker at Advent Breakfast asked that her honorarium be contributed to the Legacy Fund. Our mission doll, Lydia, began collecting contributions for the Legacy Fund. The units were Andrew Chapel Montross, Colonial Beach, Lebanon, Shiloh, Trinity Catlett, Trinity King George and Zion. Individual members from Carmel Pam Hunter, from Fredericksburg Susan Green, Carol Kutty and Janine Kutty, from New Hope Mary Frame, from Rehoboth Jena Acors, Rae Dahlinger. Vivian Dinges and Karen Sloop, from Trinity King George Julia Meade Gallier and Warsaw Frances Wilkins. Some were new givers and others were for the third year of their five year pledge.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to undesignated mission giving and Legacy giving this reporting year!

During third quarter, units sent donations directly to local mission, The Haven Shelter,

West Point Pharmacy, Wesley Community Service Center, UMCOR, and Northern Neck Food Bank. If you have a question about whether you should send funds directly to someone, please call.

Our units donated through the Conference to the Henry Fork Change for Children, A Brighter Future for Children and Youth, Assembly Offering, Scarritt-Bennett Center, World Communion Scholarships (formerly Crusade Scholarships), Magazine Fund, UMCOR National Disaster Relief, and Racial Justice.

If you have Legacy Fund donations, please send the name and address of the donor so that National UMW can send them a thank you note.

Local units are encouraged to contribute to the 5 channels of Mission Giving - the Pledge to Mission, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, Special Mission Recognition and World Thank Offering. If your unit has \$60 for Mission Giving, you can be a 5 Star unit by giving \$5 to Pledge to Mission, \$5 to Gift to Mission, \$5 to Gift in Memory, \$40 to Special Mission Recognition and \$5 to World Thank Offering. If you find you have \$.60 more to give, you can give to the Virginia Conference 6th channel, Candleburning, and be a 6 Star unit.

Individuals may contribute to the 5 channels of Mission Giving by becoming a Rainbow Giver. A one-time contribution of \$60 will be divided as above and the individual will be recognized at the District Annual Meeting and presented with a Rainbow Giver pin. In addition, the Rainbow Giver's unit will be a 5 star unit. The form for Rainbow Givers is attached.

In preparation for Harvest Prayer Breakfast and Advent Breakfast, please bring or send your local unit Pledge to Mission for 2018 to the meeting. We will have a Pledge moment at the Advent Breakfast.

As we are significantly behind in our district pledge to mission for 2017, a good practice is to keep enough money in your local unit treasury to sustain you through the first quarter, and give the rest to mission giving. Please consider this as you prepare your fourth quarter remittance.

As a reminder, fourth quarter remittance is due to me on, or before, December 10. If you haven't already done so, please include \$4 per member for Administration and Membership Development funds. Checks should be made payable to Rappahannock River District United Methodist Women and mailed to:

Jerri Anne Cooper  
12277 Calvert Court  
King George VA 22485

I look forward to seeing those of you attending the Harvest and Advent Prayer Breakfasts. Come view (and purchase) our gift to mission cards and see the map showing where our undesignated mission giving is used to support and improve the lives of women, youth and children around the world.

Blessings,  
Jerri Anne Cooper  
540.775.5659  
[jaqusty@gmail.com](mailto:jaqusty@gmail.com)

### **SOCIAL ACTION**

Has autumn arrived? According to the calendar it has, but the weather patterns don't seem to agree. I don't know about you but I am very ready for cooler temperatures! With that said I know that we will welcome the changes this season will bring.

This season change has also brought an overwhelming sadness to our nation, in the face of the violent mass shooting that occurred in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017. We pray for the victims and the families who

lost loved ones in this horrific violent tragedy. As followers of Jesus, we are called to live into the reality of God's dream of shalom as described by Micah, we must address the epidemic of gun violence so "that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in God's paths."



October is Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As United Methodist Women and advocates for the health and wellbeing of women, children and youth, we need to be strong advocates for the continuation of health care and insurance for these populations. With the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) now defunded, though it is authorized through 2019, it will be up to the individual states to decide how to proceed with continuing to implement this program. We need to begin exercising our power of advocacy by contacting our state legislators and assure that we get out to vote so that we are electing officials who have our women and children's health as a priority. Visit

<https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/index.html> to read more about this program and its importance to the people we hold dear.

### Domestic Violence in Virginia:

According to statistics compiled by Empowerhouse and found on their webpage, the following statistics regarding domestic violence are as follows:

- Half of the people that seek refuge in our domestic violence shelter are children.
- The average length of stay in shelter is one month.
- One in every four women in the United States will experience severe physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner in her lifetime.
- Every five days, a Virginian is killed because of domestic violence. (Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Virginia: 1999-2007, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, October, 2009, page 50: "Between the years 1999 and 2007 there were 575 intimate partner homicides.")
- Domestic violence is a major cause of homelessness for women in the United States.
- Empowerhouse serves over 2,400 people, on average, each year.
- Area law enforcement agencies serving the Fredericksburg region including Stafford, King George, Caroline, and Spotsylvania, respond to over 6,400 domestic related calls on average, per year.

As United Methodist Women, let us strive to bring peace within our communities. One small act by one person or group goes a long way in beginning that process.

*All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations will worship before You.*

Psalm 22:27

Blessings,

Vicky Butler  
butlervr@comcast.net  
540-273-7602

### **EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Well done good and faithful servants. Check out what your units did last year, September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017. We had 27 of 42 local units submit their accomplishments as measured by the Living Into Our Purpose form:

7 Level I units  
4 Level II (Silver) units  
16 Level III (Gold) units

We also had one unit complete 30 of the 34 items – that is awesome! One small unit (less than 15 members) completed 23 of 34 items; they are as mighty as the God they serve.

While the awards and recognitions are important – the most important thing is for us to be living our UMW purpose daily. We need to be sharing with each other.

We will be looking at our Stateside Missionary Conferences at our spring Mission Event. Watch for more details.

Serving you with joy,

Barbara Swingle  
703.580.6408  
[tswingle@aol.com](mailto:tswingle@aol.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH**

It is that time again, UMW Unit Presidents, to complete the 2017 Census. I want to thank all of the units who were diligent in completing or making sure the 2016 census was completed for their units. Please find the Census 2017 information below that was forwarded to me by Nancy Walsh, Virginia MNO and Maria Rodriguez, below.

Our district, the Rappahannock River District, needs to have all of its units reporting this year.

Please send me an email when you have completed the Census 2017 for your unit. [pschlege@gmail.com](mailto:pschlege@gmail.com) \*(I am pleased to report that we already have two units that have reported to me that they have completed the census!)

#### CENSUS GOALS

The United Methodist Women wants to celebrate that the United Methodist Conferences had 100% reporting!

Our goal for 2017 is to have 100 percent district reporting and all of our 27,000 local units represented in the census. We are asking for your commitment to make this happen. This will be a joint effort as the Office of Membership will be reaching out to all 27,000 local units by email and mailings to inform unit leaders about the importance of filling out the census and how it relates directly to United Methodist Women's efforts in fulfilling our core commitments: spiritual growth, leadership development, transformative education, service and advocacy and organizing for membership growth.

You will recognize some changes on the form. There are several new questions that are focused on strategies around increasing membership, our social justice priorities, and training needs. Our goal is to increase membership by 2 percent at the district level by 2020, so the feedback received through the census is critical in how we plan strategically to meet this goal.

We are determined to reach this goal. Let's be inspired to share our rich legacy of mission and all that United Methodist Women has to offer, so that we can celebrate another 150 years of turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world!

**WHEN WOMEN AND YOUTH THRIVE, WE ALL THRIVE!**

Blessings,

Peggy Schlegelmilch  
(540) 898-0371  
[pschlege@verizon.net](mailto:pschlege@verizon.net)

#### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR**

Love and Peace to my Sisters-in-Christ!

United Methodist Women are ACTIVE and doing great things in our Rappahannock River District!

Never was that more evident than when I visited and talked with the Rehoboth United Methodist Women yesterday. They may be a small church, but I was so impressed by all the ministries and fundraising activities they have going on. United Methodist Women continuing to turn faith, hope, and love into action!!!

I spoke on "A Community of Women" -- and mentioned that our "churches" are a community -- because we are a mix of people with different personalities, different backgrounds, and different ideas that might not normally hang out together -- but we all have one thing in common...WE ALL LOVE JESUS.

God didn't intend for us to be in isolation -- that is why he gave Adam some company in the Garden and created Eve. We are our BEST selves when we are in relationship with God and others.

One quick story: "A member of a church who attended worship services on a regular basis...suddenly stopped going! After a few weeks the Pastor paid him a visit -- he found the man at home sitting by a blazing fire -- all alone. The host, guessing the reason for the Pastor's visit, welcomed him and led him to a chair by the fireplace. After a few minutes, the Pastor picked up the fire



tongs and placed a brightly burning ember to one side of the hearth....all alone. The Pastor sat back in the chair -- still silent. As the lone ember's flame faded out -- there was a momentary glow and then there was fire no more. Then it was cold and "dead as a doornail."

Just before the Pastor was ready to leave he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back into the middle of the fire. IMMEDIATELY, it began to glow again with the warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Pastor reached the door, his Host said "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for that FIERY SERMON! I shall see you back in church next Sunday."

Being part of a church -- part of the family of God -- part of a Community....that's what it is all about. We cannot "be alone, by ourselves" - we need each other to make the picture complete! United Methodist Women are a "community" of women whose members pray, serve, advocate, and GIVE.

To paraphrase Hebrews 10:24-25, the author said that: "we should not neglect to meet together...but encourage each other."

As your Mission Team Spiritual Growth Coordinator, please feel free to call me anytime if you would like me to speak locally in or near Caroline. Transportation can sometimes be a problem for me....but I usually try and work something out. I always love meeting and talking with the UMW ladies in our District.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next District event on November 4 -- The Harvest Prayer Breakfast at Henderson UMC in Callao, VA. I strongly encourage attendance, if possible, as our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Kathy Gouchenour who will be speaking on "Prayers of

Thanksgiving"...it should be both powerful and inspirational.

The "Son" Rises,  
Pam Smith  
804-633-5415  
[ephs289@yahoo.com](mailto:ephs289@yahoo.com)



Pam Smith with Rehoboth UMW members

## **SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES**

As we start our 2018 reading program, I have a few updates to add. Books from 2012 will still be eligible for credit until December 31, 2017. Remember to include youth books and children's books for credit. I will be selling books as well as the Prayer Calendar and Program Book at the Harvest Prayer Breakfast and Advent Breakfast. If you want to order specific items for your unit, please email or call me two weeks before these events so I can add this to my consignment order from UMW Mission Resources. After the first of the year, I will only be ordering books if I receive your order for them. You may also place an order for your unit by going to [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) or through Amazon. Please let me know if you have any questions about ordering. The Reading Resource table will continue to have information and Reading Program resources at all our district meetings. Many thanks to all the participants who received certificates at our annual meeting. You are

awesome!

Blessings,  
Cathy White  
571- 643-3511  
[rockfish1@gmail.com](mailto:rockfish1@gmail.com)

### **COMMUNICATIONS/HANDBOOK**

Presidents, please remember to send me the form with your 2018 president and treasurer information. I want to make sure every unit is included in the Handbook. If the officers have not changed---please send the completed form anyway. These can be emailed to me if you don't have a stamp. [cherylljohnson@comcast.net](mailto:cherylljohnson@comcast.net)

Blessings,  
Cheryl Johnson

### **LOCAL UNIT NEWS**

The Kilmarnock United Methodist Women met on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 and invited Kyle Lorenzino, Marketing Manager from the Kilmarnock office of Visiting Angels.

Kyle Lorenzino explained the very complicated maneuvering that is part of elder care needs in United States today. Visiting Angels is a service that supplements home care, Hospice care, nursing care...just about any type of care that is needed for the elderly. It often is exactly what you need in the home but it's all based on experienced professional assessment of the situation.

It was very helpful for Kyle to explain the differences in the various services that is needed and how Visiting Angels can step in to assess and help. Kyle stated, "Often families are in crises and it's our job to evaluate the home situation and health of the client and be able to give our best

advice on moving forward...often it's not to hire Visiting Angels immediately."

The information shared and honesty about the services that Visiting Angels can offer (and what they don't offer) was invaluable. It was also refreshing to hear their goal is to help those in need and not to just sign new clients. Several ladies in attendance had used the services of Visiting Angels, and praised their services and staff as professional, personable and just what they needed to help with care of a loved one.

Cheri Bennett  
KUMW President



Kyle Lorenzino, Visiting Angels





Rappahannock River District Office  
United Methodist Women  
P. O. Box 100  
Ladysmith, VA 22501



*United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*