



THE CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Rappahannock River District United Methodist Women

Number 001

January 2018

Deborah Dietrich, Editor

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a very blessed Christmas and that your new year has started off on just the right foot. As I write this note, the last line of a secular Christmas song keeps running through my mind. That line is “Baby, it’s cold outside!” It’s 16 degrees outside as I am typing, so it IS cold outside.

Regardless of the outside temperature, my heart is warm. Why? Because of the warmth that spreads out from all the Rappahannock River District UMW Sisters. I receive warmth from your smiles, your hugs, and your greetings whenever we get together. I receive warmth when I hear of all the mission work that you are supporting in your local units. I receive warmth when I hear from our District UMW Treasurer that we exceeded our Pledge to Mission in 2017. I receive warmth when I pray for all of you because I feel your prayers returning to me. In fact, all this warmth makes me toasty hot inside!

When John was baptizing and was asked if he was the Messiah, he told the people that he was only baptizing with water. However, John promised that one would be coming who would “baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”. How lucky I am to be part of an organization of women who spread the warmth of the fire in their hearts for mission to women, children, and youth around the world.

Dimes and Dollars for the Legacy Fund

Do you remember when we passed a sock to collect “Dimes and Dollars for Blackstone”? Those funds went towards the upkeep of the facility at Blackstone that the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women used extensively for our UMW Conference level events. What did your unit do when the facility at Blackstone closed? Did you stop passing the sock? Or do you still pass the sock, only designating that money for something else, say a local mission or as extra undesignated mission giving to UMW?

You all have been very generous in accepting Lydia as a collection point for the Legacy Fund when we get together for RR District UMW events. Now, I would like to propose another means to support the Legacy Fund in our local units.

I urge you to revive passing a sock as “Dimes and Dollars for the Legacy Fund”. That extra quarter (or whatever change you have) that we each put into the sock at our local meetings will add up to a nice offering at the end of the year for the Legacy Fund. If we initiate “Dimes and Dollars for the Legacy Fund”, we will be instituting a sustainable giving to the Legacy Fund that is not only easy to implement but also is not a burden to support. Our sustained support to the Legacy Fund is our way of telling the younger women in our UMW and those not

yet a member of UMW that we want a United Methodist Women's organization to be around for them and for our granddaughters.

2017 Annual Meeting Recognition

One of the privileges of serving as the President of the Rappahannock River District UMW is that I am allowed to receive any awards that might be presented to the RRD UMW at the VA Conference UMW Annual meeting. At the October 28, 2017 VA Conference UMW Annual Meeting, I was proud to accept these awards on behalf of the Rappahannock River District UMW. !

Living Into Our Purpose – 2nd place

5 & 6 Star units – 2nd place with 77% of the units qualifying

Reading Program, largest percent increase in persons completing plans – 3rd place

Reading Program, participation certificate – 562 books read

In addition, it was announced that the RRD UMW were in 4th place in Candleburning giving. Last but not least, the RRD UMW tied for first place in the number of Rainbow Givers!

Congratulations on these tangible tokens of the hard work you all are doing in mission for women, children, and youth!

Blessings,
Julia Meade "JM" Gallier
540-775-2027
jmcg5580@va.metrocast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Our 2018 calendar of events will be sent via separate attachment along with this newsletter. It is also printed in the annual handbook provided to all unit presidents. If you need a copy of the calendar, please let me know.

Blessings,
Pam Hiller
540-288-9511
hillerpam@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Happy 2018 to the Women of the Rappahannock River District UMW! Along with celebrating the New Year, we celebrate successfully reaching our \$40,000 Pledge to Mission. With our continued hard work and giving, we will reach our 2018 District goal of \$40,000 and our Conference goal of \$685,000 in undesignated Mission Giving. It costs 60 cents of undesignated mission giving for 1 second of United Methodist Women mission work with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.

During fourth quarter, units sent donations directly to The Haven Shelter, ECHO, Healing Eagle Clinic, Henry Fork Service Center, Wesley Community Service Center, Tappahannock Free Clinic and UMC Disaster Tappahannock.

Local units are encouraged to contribute through 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, Candle-burning, 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 will be sent via email along with this newsletter.

We already have three Six Star Units, eight Five Star Units and two Rainbow Givers for 2018.

All the forms for Treasurers will be sent via email along with this newsletter remittance form: Special Mission Recognition order form, Gift to Mission order form, and supplementary gifts form. If you would like an excel version of the remittance form, please email me.

Anyone sending Legacy Fund donations, please send the donor's name and address with your remittance. If the unit is sending a donation, please include a name and address to send correspondence. This will be sent to the Conference Treasurer, then the National Treasurer and you should get a thank you note, with the signature of the General Secretary and CEO Of United Methodist Women, Harriett Jane Olson.

As a reminder, first quarter remittance is due to me on, or before, March 10. If possible, please include \$4 per member for Administration & Membership Development funds. Please include your unit Pledge to Mission for 2018 (no form required!) with your remittance or via email to jagusty@gmail.com. Checks should be made payable to Rappahannock River District UMW and mailed to Jerri Anne Cooper, 12277 Calvert Court, King George VA 22485.

Happy New Year and congratulations once more on exceeding our pledge in 2017! If you have questions, please call!

Blessings,
Jerri Anne Cooper
540.775.5659
jagusty@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTION



Happy New Year Sisters! If your holidays were as busy as mine, I must say I am glad to be able to refocus and look forward to a new year with a fresh start. A new year gives us a chance to look at setting new goals for current UMW Social Action Priorities for the year.

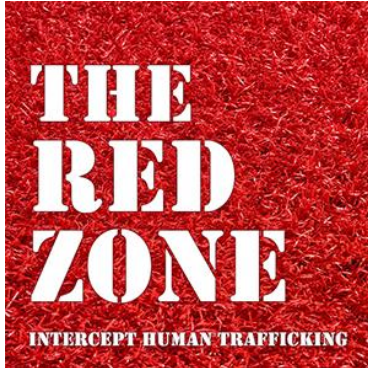
January is **Human Trafficking Awareness Month**, and hopefully your units have been planning your events that are not just confined to January but for throughout the year to promote activism in this area of need.

United Methodist Women observes **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** every January 11th.

This year, we kicked off our final **Intercept the Traffickers** campaign. When advocacy in this area first began, people in our churches and communities were not informed about how widespread and pervasive modern slavery exists. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our members it is now known in every

community.

In previous campaigns, “we froze the traffickers, ran umbrella defenses and boxed 'em up.” Now we are standing in



Please use the following link to read more about this campaign and what your local UMWs can do to continue the fight.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/the-red-zone>

Also see the article at the end of this newsletter from Becky Guy, our Human Trafficking Awareness Advocate.

Reminders of the initiatives and priorities for 2016-2020:
Economic Inequality, Climate Justice, Criminalization of Communities of Color and Maternal and Child Health.

Economic Inequality:

Examine income and wealth inequality, economic insecurity and its root causes. Learn what you can do to effect change in the system in your own communities. Visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/economic-inequality> to gain more knowledge and put that knowledge into practice.

Climate Justice:

Use the 13 UMW principles for this priority, to promote 13 steps to Sustainability. Visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability> to gain information.

Criminalization of Communities of Color:

Utilize the Charter for Racial Justice as a backdrop and basis for the many ways you can educate, advocate and change the injustices among communities of color. Visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice>

Maternal and Child Health:

Be inspired to learn about this priority worldwide and in your own communities. Contact your local health departments and hospitals to learn small ways you can make a difference in your communities. Visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mchealth> to find a wealth of information.

As always, I am available to speak to your units on any of these priorities as I begin my **last** year as your District Social Action Coordinator.

Blessings,

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

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Happy New Year! Attached to this newsletter email you will find the Living Into Our Purpose form that we are using this year. We had wonderful results to share at our September 2017 RRD UMW Annual meeting and I hope we continue this wonderful work. This form is a great way for each of us individually and as a unit to remind ourselves of ways that we may incorporate the UMW Purpose into our individual lives and our mission work in our units.

I would like to bring your attention to item 3.h on the Living Into Our Purpose form which reads “Have “green” meetings and participate in or develop an Environmental Justice Program”. Please note the “and” in

the middle of this item. It's wonderful how many of our local units have given up using disposable plates, cups, & cutlery and have gone back to using dishes & utensils that require washing. These "green" meetings are great for our environment. However, having "green" meetings is not enough to fulfill this item. In addition to having "green" meetings, the local unit must also participate in or develop an Environmental Justice Program. I look forward to seeing how you all fulfill item 3.h when you send in your completed forms in early September.

Barbara Swingle
703.580.6408
tswingle@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH

UMW CENSUS DUE MARCH 30!

Our goal for 2018 is to have 100 percent UMW Units reporting in the 2017 Census. We are asking for your commitment to make this happen. 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!

The Census Link can be found on the United Methodist Women's website or you can click here:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2017

At this link, you will find an instructional video and attached printable instructions on how to complete the 2017 census. Please send an email to Peggy Schlegelmilch: pschlege@gmail.com when your unit's census has been completed, so she can keep track of the units that have completed it.

DON'T FORGET my UMW: LINK FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF EACH UNIT

With the launch of myUMW in 2016, approximately 20,000 members HAVE signed up for their membership card. This membership form is designed for each member to fill out, and will inform the UMW National Office of our work going forward to meet the ever changing needs of our members. Please continue to share the myUMW link at:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myUMW.

Thank you so much for your help!

Blessings,

Peggy Schlegelmilch
(540) 898-0371
pschlege@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

Happy 2018 to all my loving sisters in the Rappahannock River District. I hope that you all have been managing to stay WARM during these bitter cold temps we have been having! As for me -- I'm definitely ready for SPRING to be here; visions of gardens and flowers have been calling me.

I've had plenty to keep me busy during my stay inside, especially with my husband's health issues. However, God has richly blessed Ken and I'm VERY happy to announce that he is well on the road to recovery. I've turned my focus to the annual "Spiritual Day Apart" in March and have been busily planning and preparing for our program.

I strongly encourage you all to attend our District event on March 10, 2018, at Trinity (King George) UMC in King George, VA. For most it will be your first opportunity to hear and listen to our Keynote Speaker, Rev. Emily Moore-Diamond, Chaplain at

Mary Washington Hospital and a former pastor of Warsaw UMC. Her theme will be "Sacred Space" and I'm sure her inspirational message will leave us with "hearts on fire"! I hope and pray that I will see all my UMW "sisters" at our spiritual program.

The Flyer and Pre-registration Form (with directions on the back) have been emailed to local units along with this newsletter. PLEASE MAIL THE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM TO PAM SMITH NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 24, 2018, so that we can provide Trinity (King George) UMW with an accurate attendance count.

"Do not come any closer. Take of your sandals, for the place where you are standing is Holy ground."

Exodus 3:5

The "Son" Always Rises,
Pam Smith
804-633-5415
ephs289@yahoo.com

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

We are entering into 2018 and those cold winter months that make for a good opportunity to cozy up and read. I am very impressed with the book "50 Women Every Christian Should Know". It is one of our new books and starts at the year 1098 (!) and ends at present time introducing us to women we have heard about and some that we may not have. *[Editor's note: I have read this book, and I loved it!]*

For those UMW Reading Program managers who are unable to attend our training sessions this month, please ask your unit president to give you the copy of the reading report form in the 2018

handbook. This is the form that you will be sending me by September 4th. I need these forms before our annual meeting in order to get each unit's certificates prepared and also to compile my report to our State Representative, Jeanette Yoh. Last year, several churches forgot to send in their reports. Time always seems to be speeding up and we get busy with other activities as summer comes to a close.

The new 2018 titles focus on Native American issues, Alzheimer's disease and health and wellness in body and spirit. You may read titles from 2013-2018 for credit. Youth and children's books are also included from this 5 year period for credit in the adult reading program. This gives all of us lots of options to choose from.

Lastly, please feel free to call or email me with any of your needs. I have ordered several new brochures for the reading resource table and will be glad to order books by request for any of our Tappahannock River UMW District events.

Happy Reading,
Cathy White
571- 643-3511
rockfish1@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS - HANDBOOK

The RRD Handbook will be distributed at our January officer renewal events. The remainder will be mailed to those who were unable to attend--expect them within the first 10 days of February. Please check your information and if you find an error, please send me an email, to include the page number, the error, and the correction needed.

Thanks to all the units who sent your information to me in a timely manner. I so appreciate your efforts.

The following corrections to the handbook have been noted so far:

Pg 5: Delete Westview on the James Board Members

Pg 10: April 14 District UMW Mission Event at Warsaw UMC---end time should be 2:30 P.M.

Pg 16: Rehoboth (Caroline) the mailing address should be 18580 Partlow Rd, Beaverdam, VA 23015 This is the same as the physical address.

Blessings,
Cheryl Johnson
540-657-4044
cherylljohnson@comcast.net

NOMINATIONS

Because some of the mission team members will finish up their tenure in their present job at the end of 2018 your nominations committee has a lot of work to do between now and August. We have met and are making lists of members to contact about serving on the mission for the 2019-2020 term or in the future. If someone on the committee contacts you about serving, please don't answer before you pray about it. Also, if you are sure you are unable to serve for the upcoming term, please have the name of someone you recommend for us to contact.

We are so blessed to have such capable and devoted women on the mission team now and in past terms. I know that they count it a joy and privilege to serve God in this way. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to take on a new role in your Christian journey, ask him if he might be leading you to take on leadership at the UMW district level. And let me remind you that he most often does not pick those who are the most qualified but rather equips those whom he picks to serve.

Blessings from your Nominations Committee,

Pam Hunter, chair, 540-775-4126,
pamkhunter@aol.com

Sylvia Massie
Peggy Clark
Mary Frame
Diane Zeigler

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Attention: HUMAN Trafficking Legislation 2018

The Virginia Legislature is in session right now and there is some important legislation which you can help support to tighten up the laws previously enacted under Speaker of the House Bill Howell which you ALL helped support. As a result, daily "kingpins" are being taken off the streets and put in jail where they can no longer harm our children! This is a very profitable "business" to the traffickers (second only to the Drug Trafficking) but Human Trafficking is closing in quickly on the Drug epidemic and the profits it generates. Furthermore, SUPER BOWL is approaching rapidly. This is the peak for Human Trafficking, both in the numbers of victims and in the profits for the traffickers.

PLEASE call your Representative in the House and your Senator in Richmond to voice your support for these bills 2018. If you are in the 28th district, contact:

Representative Bob Thomas, Email:
DelBThomas@house.virginia.gov,
804-698-1028, cell 540-693-0726
This is Bob's first term. He is PRO HT. All 28th District voters should encourage him to vote for HT.

Senator Richard Stewart, email: district28@senate.Virginia.gov, 804-493-0726, cell 540-698-7528. Experienced Senator originally from the Northern Neck But moved to Stafford and replaced Chichester.

IF YOU are NOT 28th District, go to this link: <https://www.virginia.gov/services/whos-my-legislator/>

Legislation being put forth this term in Richmond:

Passed by the House 2017; Awaiting Senate action 2018

HR2664 Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act would direct the Secretary of Labor to provide training to various Department of Labor personnel in recognizing signs of labor trafficking. This bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, Pension Committee.

HR2480 Empowering Law Enforcement to Fight Sex Trafficking Demand would provide federal funding for law enforcement agencies to develop programs for the purpose of fighting sex trafficking. This bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

HR2200 known as the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 will reauthorize funding to stop human trafficking and provide aid to the victims. This bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Senate Bill Status 2018

S1693 (Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017), is out of committee and will be voted on by the Senate.

Passage of this bill will enable entities to be held liable, such as Backpage.com that advertise victims of sex trafficking.

HR1865 (Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017) will hold entities accountable as participants in human trafficking.

I do not have the new bill numbers for 2018 since the Legislature has just begun its session. However, I do have a "rumor" of several bills in the making:

(1) Training of Law Enforcement. Mark Cole from Spotsylvania is signing on with this one.

(2) Criminal records of juvenile victims will be expunged

(3) Children in need of services (both 2 & 3 are David Yancy's bills)

As this information becomes fact, I will keep you informed so you can support these new 2018 bills also.

Blessings,

Becky Guy
540-479-3448
mwcof61@cox.net



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.