Wonderful Women of Faith,

As I write this, I will be in upstate New York for a few more weeks – then home to my church, my district and the United Methodist Women I love so well. We went to an event the second weekend in September called the Rustic Fair, held in Blue Mountain Lake each year. It is an extravaganza of artisans who take bark and twigs and limbs and tree trunks and burls (they look like big blisters on tree trunks) from trees and make incredible furniture from them. They are able to walk through the woods and see the possibilities the trees hold – shapes and colors - and see the beauty and the promise in those very common things. It struck me that that is how God sees us – normal, common, every day people ~ many times not beautiful at all ~ but he sees something in us that he can use, that he can make lovely. And he sets to work to do just that. And all we need to do is allow him to use us.

Your district mission team has added a mission emphasis to our team meeting agendas just as we do with each district event we plan. In January we collected ribbon and bows and Christmas wrapping paper for the Jackson Feild Home. In August we collected school supplies for elementary school children at Patrick Copeland Elementary School in Hopewell. In January, we will bring items for another mission project – food for the food pantry at Matoaca UMC. I wanted you to know that mission is never far from our thoughts and that you don’t need to be a large group to accomplish something good.

This newsletter contains information on the upcoming Fall Day Apart and Advent Retreat which I ask you to read carefully and consider attending. The programs and speakers promise to be informative and riveting. Please note that the mission emphasis for the Advent Retreat will be two-fold ~ a love offering to purchase gift cards for the 31 prison chaplains throughout the conference as well as the collection of greeting cards for the inmates. I know many of you already do this through our district prison ministry emphasis, but this will give us the opportunity to participate on a much larger scale.

Sally
Hello, friends!

We had an absolutely wonderful district annual meeting on September 27th! Thank you, UMW members of Main Street – Suffolk UMW, for your tremendous hospitality. Thank you to all who attended and helped to celebrate our annual meeting as the James River District UMW! A heartfelt thank you goes to each of you who brought food or other donated items for “the Kids Homeless Ministry” at Main Street UMC. Your generosity was overwhelming! Congratulations to all of our units who received various certificates for their hard work and accomplishments. All of this helps your unit to grow in knowledge and service to God as you work to fulfill your UMW purpose.

Thank you for your monetary contributions throughout the year with your 5 or 6 star giving! Every penny given helps to make a difference in someone’s life. Think about all God has given you and blessed you with. Then think about the women, children and youth wherever they may be who struggle every day to survive. Put yourself “in their shoes”! When giving to your unit, count your blessings and then share your blessings!

I look forward to seeing you at our two upcoming district events and hope you will make an effort to attend both! Our “Fall Day Apart” will be on Sunday, November 1st, 3:00 pm, at Trinity UMC in Disputanta. Larry Cortright will bring us information about “Camp Rainbow.” Our Advent retreat will be on Saturday, December 5th, at “Blackstone.” Our retreat leader will be Rev. Lynn Litchfield, chaplain of “GraceInside.” Look for more specific information about each of these events in this newsletter.

Blessings,
Carol

I always think of fall as ‘my season’. I am excited for the turning of the leaves, the blooming of the fall flowers that take us into winter here in Virginia. When I lived in South Dakota and Alaska, I even found myself looking forward to the first snows. This weekend as I traveled the state I noticed those gorgeous hues of fall beginning to appear. God is an artist.

I am so appreciative for the attention given to detail by the secretaries in our units. Thank you so very much for the listings of your officer information to be printed in the 2016 yearbook. You certainly are keeping me on schedule. I encourage those who have not yet remitted your forms either by email or snail mail to please do so. Your printed deadline is November 1, and I have already made my schedule with the printer to turn over my
information for printing. I will be out of the loop for a few weeks as I have surgery on October 20 and will be looking forward to getting all of the information cataloged as quickly as possible. You can send me your information via email to candee.speirs@gmail.com or snail mail it to PO Box 65, Disputanta, VA 23842. I am looking forward to receiving your reports and any other information you would like to share regarding your unit's happenings.

Yearbooks - each unit receives four (4) copies, but you are not limited to four. Extras are always on hand and are available for purchase. If you already know your unit will need/want more, please contact me. Yearbooks will be available for pick up on Saturday, December 5, at Advent Retreat.

Candee

Our James River District has been blessed financially during 2015. If you were at our recent annual meeting, you heard about all our accomplishments. If not, then let me share with you what we, together as a team, have done.

We had 14 Rainbow Women from 6 units. We had 6 units contribute to the Legacy Fund for a total of $656.76. Other members donated directly to this fund, which is not reflected in our district total. Also, there was one five star unit and 19 six star units. Candleburning programs totaled $5,774.75.

It is our six channels of giving that make up our total Pledge to Missions. As each unit strived to meet its goal, we can be proud that our district has met its goal of $45,000. You ladies remitted $49,083.27. Yea team UMW!! Our goal is the same for 2016….let's keep up the good work!

And last but not least, we had a visit from Wesley, Suze and baby Chuck. Their collection from the day totaled $230.55. In addition, we passed the crazy socks to support VUMAC and that totaled $119.39. Purses were a little lighter when we left our meeting, but our hearts were full.

Let's pray that each unit in our district will continue to reach out and serve the women and youth of our communities, nation, and world.

Marie
I am pleased to report that the ladies of the James River District UMW read 420 books for the 2015 Reading Program. Betty J. Forbes (Bermuda Hundred) read 33 books.

There were 15 churches participating in the Reading Program with 28 ladies completing Plan I, three ladies completing Plan II, and five ladies completing Plan IV. In addition, I am happy to say that one child participated from Kenwood UMC.

There are a lot of new books for next year that look very interesting. You can go online at www.umwmissionresources.org to see these books. I will have a bookroom at the Advent Retreat in December. I hope that we will have even more ladies participating in the Reading Program this year.

May your life be enriched through reading.

Debbie

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH
MARY RENNEY

Every season is a new beginning. This fall as UMW begins to be a force that will grow in membership, missions, and grace. Invite a neighbor or church member to one of your meetings. Make a special effort to keep in touch with people in your church and community. Encourage them to read God’s word and lead their children to a Christ-like life. Make time for the young women in your church and make them feel welcome as a United Methodist Women. Share with them your successes! This will be a wonderful opportunity to gain new membership and watch our families grow in grace.

Celebrate each day by praising God and thanking Him for all the blessings of the day and be a blessing to others. Each morning go out early and look for something new in your environment. Enjoy the bright colors of fall.

May peace and understanding be with you every day. Romans 10:10-13.

Mary
First of all I would like to thank Carol Elmore for her dedication and service to the Petersburg/James River United Methodist Women. She has worn many hats over the years and has given 100% to each one of them.

A big thank-you and congratulations to Pam Crandol for accepting the position of Vice President! I know Pam will do a wonderful job for the district.

Positions that need to be filled for the coming year:
Education & Interpretation, Nominations Committee

Why you should consider joining the mission team:
1. Serve God and His Church
2. Accept new challenges
3. Belong to a team of dedicated women
4. Opportunity to grow in faith
5. Build new friendships

Please be in prayer and consider joining us in doing the Lord’s work.

If you would like to serve, or are aware of anyone who is willing to serve in one of these positions, please contact one of the following persons on the Nominations Committee:

Betty Finklea Chairperson at: bettyfinklea@gmail.com
Sylvia Kowalski at: sylviakowlaski@charter.net
Sandy Kirkland at: sandykirkland@gmail.com

Betty

It was wonderful to see so many at our annual meeting and to celebrate a new year for the UMW. Remember that our social action priorities remain the same this year…prison ministries, domestic violence and poverty/economic injustice. So much more needs to be done with each of these areas and as United Methodist Women, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Take advantage of the many resources that you can use such as Response, your district officers, other members, other units, our conference and district church offices, the internet, your local facilities such as food banks and GOD.
I hope to see you at the Fall Day Apart on November 1st at Trinity UMC in Disputanta. We will learn about Camp Rainbow. The mission emphasis will be helping the scholarship fund for this camp. If you want to send a check, please make it payable to James River District UMW as we will send one large check to them.

Another date to put on your calendar is the United Methodist Day at the General Assembly, Thursday, February 4, 2016. Cost is only $25, and you can register on-line now. Paper registrations will be available soon. It is an unique event so if you never attended before, take the time and come. Invite a friend to go with you a sit open to all.

With lots of love,

Diana

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CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING
October 24-25

UMW And VUMAC Celebrate the 40th Anniversary Of "Dimes And Dollars"

Plans are to dedicate the Wicker Room with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an appropriate plaque, in honor of all Virginia Conference United Methodist Women, placed in the room. Each district will design a Dimes and Dollars hat to be worn by the VUMAC Rep (or other designated person) while carrying her district "sock" filled with its district Dimes and Dollars contribution. All the districts’ contributions will be emptied into the large Conference sock located at the stage while everyone sings our Dimes and Dollars song to the tune of "Happy Days Are Here Again." Also, the Dimes and Dollars collection cups on the dining room tables will be covered in colorful socks to make each table of ladies more aware of the celebration. Let's get all excited and tell everybody that "Dimes and Dollars for Blackstone" is still ALIVE AND DOING WELL after 40 years.

LEGACY FUND AUCTIONS

If you are planning to attend the Conference UMW Annual Meeting at the end of this month, you are in for a treat. Both live and silent auctions are planned for Saturday evening. As a district, we will donate a gift basket to be auctioned off filled with goodies symbolic of our district, but if you want to contribute an auction item as well, you are welcome to do so. Some ideas include (but certainly not limited to) gift baskets, gift certificates (department stores, hotels, etc.), collectibles, antique glassware, homemade jellies/jams/relishes/candies, scarves, purses, jewelry, and small furniture items. All proceeds will benefit the Legacy Fund. Bring your checkbook and get your bidder number!
Mark you calendars now for Saturday, January 30 – our District Leadership Renewal and Development event will take place at Magnolia UMC in Suffolk at 10:00 am.

Special guest speaker that day will be Monica Sprague, our Conference UMW Coordinator for Social Action. We are planning something new and different for the morning, so plan to come – even if you are not an elected officer in your local unit. A number of you have requested that the training part of the morning be available to everyone, as well as the speaker session. Consequently, we will not break out into groups for training for each position, but will train jointly. More information will be available in the January Compass, but we wanted you to have a ‘heads up’ and plan ahead.

JAMES RIVER DISTRICT UMW
FALL DAY APART

WHEN: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER THE 1ST
TIME: 3:00 PM
WHERE: TRINITY UMC, DISPUTANTA

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE LARRY CORTRIGHT, A LONG TIME SUPPORTER AND VOLUNTEER AT THE CAMP RAINBOW CONNECTION.

Camp Rainbow is a week-long camp held in July & August for individuals with intellectual disabilities. While at camp, the campers, who are 16 years old & up, participate in a variety of activities that are fun, lots of fellowship and have opportunities for personal growth. It also gives a respite time for these individuals’ care givers. It is a demonstration of God’s unconditional love for all people as shown by example by Christ.

MISSION EMPHASIS IS: A LOVE OFFERING THAT WILL GO TO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE CAMPERS. THE COST OF A CAMPER IS $400. LET’S HELP IN SENDING A CAMPER TO CAMP RAINBOW!

Directions to Trinity: the physical address is 10021 County Dr, Disputanta, VA 23842. The church is located at the corner of Route 460 (County Drive) and Hines Road, roughly half way between Petersburg and Waverly.

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 24 - 25</td>
<td>Conference UMW Annual Meeting – “Blackstone”</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Fall Day Apart – Trinity UMC Disputanta</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting 2016 Unit Officers List to Candee Speirs</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>4th Quarter Treasurer’s Report – send to Marie Hawks</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Advent Retreat – “Blackstone”</td>
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<td>Deadline for submitting Membership Info to Mary Renney</td>
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RAHAB’S ROPE EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!

Grace Memorial United Methodist Women of Sedley discovered quite by chance a mission that they were determined to help. While surfing the web, Grace’s pastor, Rev. Rita Kanten, came upon the website for Rahab’s Rope. This organization, with three locations in India and one in Georgia, takes women and children (some as young as ten) off the streets, shelters them, gives them medical attention, and teaches them a craft. The women sell these crafts and learn to become independent.

The organization’s name comes from the Bible story of Joshua who was protected by Rahab, a prostitute, as he prepared to enter and conquer Jericho. To show his gratitude, he ordered Rahab to hang a crimson rope from her window so she and her family would be spared when Joshua and the Israelites took the city. Thus the name Rahab’s Rope.

The annual revenue generated by the sex trade industry worldwide is a whopping $32 billion with 29 million men, women, and children in slavery. Sex trafficking is the number one fastest growing crime in the world and is everywhere, including right here in the United States.

Grace’s ladies were appalled by these statistics and held their first Rahab’s Rope event last year with 100 percent of monies from sales going directly back to Rahab’s Rope. It was such a success that they decided to hold the second event this summer. Women from other churches in the area came to browse the many handcrafted items for sale such as pashminas, totes, scarves, journals, and jewelry. Following a time of shopping, everyone enjoyed fellowshipping over light refreshments. Once again, one hundred percent of the money, over fifteen hundred dollars, went back to Rahab’s Rope. As Pastor Rita said, “What could be more fun than shopping with good friends while helping a very worthwhile ministry?” To learn more about Rahab’s Rope, visit their website at rahabsrope.com or call Sandy Kirkland at 757/562-3238.

TRINITY’S “HEAVENLY DELIGHTS”

United Methodists are known for their good cooking and potluck meals, and the United Methodist Women at Trinity Disputanta are no exception!! To celebrate the 130th anniversary of the church, the UMW published a cookbook this summer. “Heavenly Delights” contains 200 recipes contributed by members and friends of the church, including many from those who have gone to their heavenly reward. Chaired by Vice President Pattie Arwood, the cookbook is the third one published by the Ann Holman Circle (1969 and 1996); all profits will go to local missions.
ADVENT RETREAT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015
VUMAC - BLACKSTONE VA

8:30 REGISTRATION
9:00 FULL BREAKFAST
9:30 – 2:00 SHARING & WORSHIP

Mission Emphasis: Prison Ministry
(any type of new greeting cards for inmates’ use; donations to purchase Christmas gift cards for the 31 Virginia prison chaplains)

REGISTRATION WITH BREAKFAST & LUNCH - $18
REGISTRATION WITH LUNCH ONLY - $13

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 15, 2015

Payment due with registration; payable to “James River District UMW”
Send Registration to Marie Hawks, 300 Rustic Drive, Carson VA 23830

UNIT:_____________________________________________ BRANCH: _____________

CONTACT NAME:____________________________________ PHONE NO.:____________

PLEASE PRINT AS NAME TAGS WILL BE MADE FROM THIS LIST

Circle One

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Rev Lynn Litchfield
Chaplain of “GraceInside”