



THE CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Fredericksburg District United Methodist Women

Number 003

July 2015

Nokomis Lemons, Editor

From Your President - In the Garden

With all the rain we've had, the weeds have gotten away from me. Every day I go out there with singular determination to remove those weeds! Who has time to stop and enjoy the garden, with so many weeds everywhere?

For some reason, today I started thinking about Wes Astin's message at last October's Annual Meeting of Virginia United Methodist Women. The theme was "In the Garden", and Wes used the beloved hymn of the same name to bring us the message. I don't recall all of it, but some of the main points were:

God created the garden for me (and you), as a place for us to walk with Him.

God waits for me in the garden.

He shares my joy when I meet Him there.

I realized I haven't met Him there in a while. So I put a chair in the garden (where I can't see the weeds). It will remind me that God is waiting for me there.



Is God waiting for you in the garden? Go walk with Him. The weeds will just have to wait!

Blessings,
Debbie Dietrich
debbie_dietrich@hughes.net
(804) 769-3730

FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

This year has really gone by. It will soon be time for the 5th Annual Meeting of Fredericksburg District United Methodist Women. This year's meeting will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2015, at Trinity UMC (King George) starting at 9:30 a.m. (Registration) and then 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Program). Please bring a bag lunch -- A lunch break will be held at 11:30 a.m.

Our speaker this year will be Michele Trampe, Executive Director of the Central Virginia Justice Initiative. A flyer for the Annual Meeting is enclosed in this newsletter. There is no charge for this event, but **pre-registration is requested by September 1** to facilitate planning and preparation. Child care will be available ONLY if requested. Please provide the information by September 1 to Peggy Clark, P.O. Box 95, St. Stephens Church, VA 23148, 804-370-6011, email: wildbill725@aol.com.

Our president, Debbie Dietrich and I have worked on the programs for 2016 and it will be presented at our District Annual Meeting on September 26th.

Blessings,

Peggy Clark
Wildbill725@aol.com
(804) 370-6011

FROM YOUR TREASURER

During the second quarter, in addition to reaching the half way point toward our District Pledge to Mission for the year,

our units designated gifts to Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, Blackstone/VUMAC/Dimes and Dollars, VUMAC Renovation, Kits for Conference, A Brighter Future, the United Methodist Women Legacy Fund and Gleaning for the World's WINGS.

If your unit is working toward a Five or Six Star Mission Giving certificate, you have until the September remittance to complete your giving. If you have questions about the certificate or your status toward the certificate, please contact me and I'll let you know what your unit status is.

Individuals may earn the Rainbow Giver pin by remitting a one-time donation of \$60 to your local unit treasurer with the Rainbow Giver form in the newsletter. The donation is split to cover the 5 channels of giving, \$5 to Pledge to Mission, \$5 for a Gift to Mission card of your choice, \$5 for a Gift in Memory card for your use, \$40 for a Special Mission Recognition pin awarded to the person of your choice and \$5 to World Thank Offering. By becoming a Rainbow Giver through your unit, your unit earns the 5 star status for the year.

If you want to become a Rainbow Giver, the form and donation need to be submitted to your unit treasurer by August 15. Unit treasurers need to get the information to me by September 1. Rainbow Giver pins will be presented at the District Annual Meeting.

Candleburning offering is the 6th channel of mission giving. For every 60 cents contributed through Candleburning, 1 second of United Methodist Women mission work is accomplished.

We will be burning a candle at our District Annual Meeting in honor or remembrance of those you have chosen through the Candleburning offering. If you have sent in your remittance and no names, please send names by August 25.

As a reminder, on or before, September 10, I will need (1) your third quarter remittance, (2) a list of your Candleburning honorees, (3) a list of your Rainbow Givers, (4) if you haven't done so already, \$3 per member for Administration and Membership Development funds. Please make checks payable to Fredericksburg District United Methodist Women and mail them to Jerri Anne Cooper, 12277 Calvert Court, King George, VA 22485.

Enjoy what's left of the summer!

Blessings,
Jerri Anne Cooper
jagusty@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTION

Happy Summer! I hope you are all taking some time out to refresh and relax as the lazy days of summer are upon us.

We have been saddened this summer with the tragic murders of the nine Christians who gathered together at Mother Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston South Carolina to study God's word. They welcomed the young man to their study, not knowing their lives would be taken by him in the name of hate. Subsequently, the burning of

several African American churches in the South reminds us of our past and the work that remains to be done.

We must take a good look at ourselves and our congregations and serve as leaders within our churches and communities to begin to effect change and spread love instead of hate. Start with prayer and then be led. Use the Prayer for Charleston found at the following address on our UMW site.
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/a-prayer-for-charleston>

"May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus."
Romans 15:5

In service to God,
Blessings,

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

SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

I hope that your summer has been going well☺ God has blessed us with an ABUNDANCE of rain this summer and I, for one, love looking out my front window and seeing a GREEN front yard, a lush garden, and my flowers blooming everywhere☺ God's creation is a beautiful sight to behold...all you have to do is take a stroll outside to enjoy the glorious pictures that he paints for us.

My devotion time is in the early morning while rocking on our front porch. I've been spending an inordinate amount of

time talking with God these days because my family and grandsons will be moving to Texas soon. Although we are very sad, I know that they must make their choices. I find that I gain great comfort by sort of "crawling up in Jesus lap and letting Him soothe and love me." Even now, I believe that God has a plan in place...maybe somewhere down the road my family will return to Virginia.

I have already started planning for the 2016 Spiritual Day Apart -- 8 months from now. However, I will keep the details a secret for a while and share them with you as the time grows closer. Until we meet again at the Annual District Meeting in September...enjoy the rest of your summer.

Blessings,
Pam Smith
ephs289@yahoo.com
(804) 633-5415

EDUCATION/INTERPRETATION

JUDGMENT WITHOUT REALLY UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

We are very comfortable passing judgment on current events and social situations depending on what has helped to shape our understanding of them, (which type of media/culture influences us). I encourage us all to realize unless and until we have personally walked and experienced the events discussed, it is impossible to know. "They are all trigger happy racists" "They are violent, lazy, criminals dependent on welfare" Until one gets to personally live the lives of

the "they" ONE WILL NEVER, EVER KNOW that side of the TRUTH.

My daughter-in-law in frustration explained how the highly degreed educators in her family were so free to offer glib advice about her autistic son (my grandson). "If you would put him in Special Education he would progress and get better, leave it to the professionals". Have they lived with him through countless misdiagnosis's (he was still having a firestorm of seizures every night) and bad but well intentioned educational practices? She has gone through extraordinary lengths to learn what he needs and where to find it. From outside her home imagining what goes on is so far from the reality of her frustration and determination to find solutions other than "let the professionals at public school take care of him".

This cautionary tale applies to EVERYTHING: death, illness. Disabled children, eating disorders, alcohol, drugs, gambling, etc. etc. The better choice is to refuse to judge reminding oneself-"I DON'T KNOW ALL THE FACTS, I haven't experienced it personally.

P.S. I didn't understand the overwhelming grief and sadness of a miscarriage until I had one.

Blessings,

Pat Piggee
terryhill2@verizon.net

COMMUNICATIONS

I have been reminded this month that life is ever-changing. Our best laid plans are not always what God has planned for us. However, keeping faith and trust in Christ Jesus gets us all through those difficult challenges and life changing events. The one thing that I am reminded of us is; "He's promised never to leave nor forsake us".

God has brought us, the United Methodist Women through times of joy and times of sorrow and what is so wonderful is that you have remained faithful to our purpose. Thank you for loving and serving God with all your hearts and in doing so, helping others.

I count it a blessing and an honor to serve with you, and find so much joy in sharing your events. It tells the world that even through times of difficulty, the United Methodist Women stand strong.

Please send me emails about your events and as always, I love photos' and want to include them in our newsletter.

Blessings,
Nokie Lemons
(804) 337-3925
nokwall@aol.com

SECRETARY FOR PROGRAM RESOURCES

As our yearly Reading Program deadline approaches, the "dog days" of summer give an excellent opportunity to catch up on your reading list and push through to achieve your goal of books to be read for our district. Last year the

Fredericksburg District had a significant and impressive increase in reading. We can do it again this year! I have enjoyed several of the selections from the 2015 reading list and hope to read several more before August 31. If you are interested in borrowing from the UMW lending library you may contact Linda Porter at 804-674-5220 or by email lpfromnc@msn.com. The purpose of the UMW reading program is to provide an opportunity to deepen your spirituality and broaden your understanding of mission work. Happy Reading!

Blessings,
Cathy White
rockfish1@gmail.com

****YOU'RE IN THE KNOW****

New Hope UMW

The New Hope UMW was blessed with a visit from Vicki Butler, our District Social Concerns Chairperson, on May 9th. Vicki gave a very enlightening and inspiring talk to our group as she outlined the issues she planned to tackle this year. Very close to her heart was the amount of poverty among children in our area and all over this nation. She also will empathize Human Trafficking throughout the District in her talks. Becky Guy offered to send her the HT brochures to distribute which the Central Virginia Justice Initiative Coalition has available. Becky also reminded those present that our Annual Meeting in September will feature Michele Trampe as our main speaker. She is the Director of and sparkplug for our local effort. Through the efforts of

Michele and the “Our Children Are Not for Sale” movement to influence the Virginia Legislature, we now have the first “stand alone” bill to prosecute Human Traffickers.

Thanks to Senator Obenchain and Representative Hugo who sponsored this bill plus the calls and letters/emails you UMW members sent to Richmond, the vote for passage of this Bill was **UNANIMOUS!**

In early June the New Hope ladies assembled 52 Birthing Kits for Annual Conference. We only have 14 members but we do lift up a strong emphasis each year on the Kits for Conference with the resulting excellent response to the appeal. We were also overjoyed to see the response at Conference to “NO MORE MALARIA” which we supported with our dollars. The Conference giving had exceeded the goal with the last reported total from the Conference Office. When translated into lives saved, our giving takes on a deeper spiritual glow. Money is still being accepted for this exceptionally worthwhile mission.

--submitted by Becky Guy

New Hope UMW/Carolyn Libby, President
Get Caught in the WEB of Good Reading!

The UMW of Fredericksburg United Methodist Church has started a book club, open to all women, to read and discuss books on the UMW Reading Program. The book discussion group is called the WEB (Women Enriched by Books). Their inaugural meeting was June 4, when they discussed *Finding God in a Bag of Groceries*. Their next meeting will be September 3, when they will discuss *An Invisible Thread*. The WEB plans to meet five times a year, so that they can read and discuss one book in each of the five Reading Program categories.

--submitted by Janine Kuty
Fredericksburg UMW

DON'T FORGET OUR WEBPAGE!

The Fredericksburg District has a special page on their website for United Methodist Women. You can find all our forms, flyers, and newsletters on this site. The address is:

<http://fredericksburgdistrict.org/umw/ministries/umw>

Become a Rainbow Giver in 2014 - 2015

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women started the Rainbow Giver Program in 2010. This is an opportunity for you, as an individual, to personally give to the 5 channels of Mission Giving. You will be recognized as a Rainbow Giver at the District Annual Meeting in September.

Your gift of \$60.00 will make you a Rainbow Giver. The \$60.00 is designated as follows.

- \$40.00 for **Special Mission Recognition**
- \$5.00 for **Pledge to Mission**
- \$5.00 for **Gift to Mission**
- \$5.00 for **Gift in Memory**
- \$5.00 for **World Thank Offering**

To become a Rainbow Giver, fill out the form on the back and give the form to your unit treasurer with a check for \$60.00. On the form, please specify

(1) Special Mission Recognition

- (a) the name of the recipient for the Special Mission Recognition pin and certificate or
- (b) pin and certificate and I will provide a name at a future date or
- (c) the name of the recipient for the Special Mission Certificate without a pin or
- (d) donation without pin or certificate

(2) Gift to Mission Card

- (a) which card you want sent to you or
- (b) donation without receiving a card and

(3) Gift in Memory Card

- (a) yes card will be sent to you or
- (b) donation without receiving a card.

RAINBOW GIVER FORM

A gift of \$60.00 is given to your Unit Treasurer by 1 September 2015.

RAINBOW GIVER'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

UNIT: _____

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION

Pin? Yes _____ No _____
Certificate? Yes _____ No _____

Name of Recipient (Please Print): _____

Send the pin to: _____

GIFT TO MISSION CARD

(Thank You, Happy Birthday, Special Day, Congratulations, In the Service of Christ, Thinking of You, Peace, Baby, or Christmas)

Which card? _____ No card _____

GIFT IN MEMORY CARD? Yes _____ No _____

All components must be submitted to your Unit Treasurer at one time. We suggest that the Rainbow Giver gift be in addition to your regular Pledge and World Thank Offering.

The Rainbow Givers will be recognized at our District Annual Meeting and will receive a Rainbow Giver pin.

If you have any questions, please contact your unit or District Treasurer, Jerri Anne Cooper, jagusty@gmail.com or 540.775.5659.

**Fredericksburg District United Methodist Women
5th District Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 26, 2015**

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Program: 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Trinity UMC (King George)

9425 King's Highway

King George, VA 22560

Offering: United Methodist Women Mission Giving

Speaker: Michele Trampe

Executive Director, Central Virginia Justice Initiative

BRING A BAG LUNCH – A lunch break will be held at 11:30 a.m.

There is no charge for this event, but **pre-registration is requested by September 1** to facilitate planning and preparation. Child care will be available ONLY if requested. Please provide the below information by September 1 to Peggy Clark, P.O. Box 95, St. Stephens Church, VA 23148, 804-370-6011, email: wildbill725@aol.com

Name of Unit _____

Number of persons attending: _____

Number and ages of children needing child care: _____

Name and phone number of contact person: _____

Virginia Conference

'ON THE ROAD AGAIN IN MISSION' Express



October 1st – 4th, 2015

The Jubilee Project, TN

The Henderson Settlement – Red Bird Missionary Conference. KY

Our Bus is gearing up for our Fall Trip to our neighboring states to share God's love and grace to our sisters and brothers who need a helping hand. After ten years, we're visiting their area again and let them know we still care. Steve & Diantha Hodges, former members of Asbury, Church Hill began *"a new mission project in 1991 in Hancock County, Tenn. which was begun in the spirit of the Jubilee Year of Leviticus 25, to help community residents gain skills, experience and hope necessary to provide for the needs of one of the lowest-income areas of Appalachia."* We hope you will join us during this colorful season of Autumn as we assist with preparations for their winter months for our sisters and brothers. Also, we will be working at The Henderson Settlement. Our evenings will be in Middlesboro, KY.

Mission Emphasis- Jubilee Project, Inc: men's & women's deodorant; shampoo; paper towels, toilet paper, large trash bags, blank DVD's & CD's; Powder milk; SNAP foods (instant mac & cheese, single serve spaghetti); aprons –size small to XXL; feminine gifts for door prizes & sharp fabric scissors for quilting class. Henderson Settlement: any non-perishable food items like: canned meat, vegetables, fruit, cereal, juice, flour, corn meal or sugar; any books and educational materials(recent books), diapers(any

size),wipes, clothes & baby items, school supplies & art supplies for kids, sewing items & material for their sewing classes and small items for prizes. They, also, mentioned good used clothes for adults.

At The Henderson Settlement - we will either be assisting in their craft classroom, food pantry, library, baby pantry, their greenhouse, clothes pantry or painting some the ramps/steps. So sisters, and brothers, start thinking now which area is your expertise. Do invite a friend, or two, to join in with us.

Trip includes: transportation; insurance; 3 nights lodging; 11 meals; snacks; gratuity & our UMW spirit

Cost per person:

\$447.45 2 per room (King Size Bed) - \$392.25 3 per room (2 double beds)
\$364.80 4 per room (2 double beds)

1st PAYMT August 15th (or earlier) \$100.00 2nd PAYMT Sept. 12th \$225.00

3rd PAYMT Sept. 26th (the remaining)

Leave from Churches: Thurs. Bon Air UMC 8:30AM - Skipwith UMC 9:00AM

Return'g to Churches: Sun. Skipwith UMC 9::30PM -Bon Air UMC 10:00PM

(or earlier)

Checks payable to Richmond District UMW: send to Ruth Wilkinson
4209 West End Dr Richmond, VA 23294





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

PURPOSE

OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The organized unit
of 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.