

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

James River District UMW



THE COMPASS

August 2016

Sally McGrath, President

Pattie Arwood, Editor

What's in this issue:

Wonderful Women of Faith,

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VP &
Secretary

It is so hard to believe that summer is almost over! Where has this year gone? It seems as if January 1 was just yesterday instead of eight months ago. (Don't look now, but Christmas is only four months away.)

Page 3 –
Treasurer

I hope that your summer has been a joyous one – filled with relaxing times, family fun, and spiritual nourishment. Since fall is just around the corner, it's time to gear up for the last exciting quarter of the year – our District UMW Annual Meeting, Fall Day Apart, and the Advent Retreat. I hope to see you at all three events – that's not asking too terribly much, as they are spaced out with plenty of time in between to rest up before the next one. I challenge you to look at these events not as 'just another meeting', but as a time to come together as Christian women to learn about each other, about mission, and about God.

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Program
Resources
& MNO

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&
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Congratulations to Courtland UMW for having the most women at the spring retreat and to Whaleyville UMW for having the greatest percentage of members there. That was truly a wonderful retreat – fabulous speaker (Myrtle Frances Hatcher), amazing food (thanks again to Courtland UMW for that), and lots of laughs.

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Calendar
Of Events

The remaining events of this year will be just as wonderful, just as fun-filled, and just as exciting. Please come and be a part of it!

Page 8 & 9
Conference
Annual
Meeting

With abundant love –

Sally

Sally McGrath, President
James River District UMW
434-246-8022

smcgrathgrammie1@peoplepc.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Pam Crandol

804-590-1660
pamjocran@aol.com

I hope everyone is having a great summer and staying cool. I recently spoke to the UMW at Bethia Methodist Church. It was a very nice evening. I think I learned more than they did with the wonderful devotion that they presented.

Our Executive District meeting was held on the 6th of August at First UMC Hopewell.

I will be leading our annual meeting on September 25th at 3 pm at Emporia Main St. Please plan to attend. We will announce our totals for our Candle Burning, do our memorial to the members that have passed away in the last year, install our new officers and give out our awards to our units.

Pam

SECRETARY
Candee Speirs

804-834-8905
candee.speirs@gmail.com

Has your summer allowed you a 'slow down' time? This summer seems to be keeping me on the go from one place to another and one project after another. I have not had many opportunities to enjoy all five of my grandchildren under the same roof often because of varied schedules but when opportunity allows such luxury I am making the best of them.

During summer travels to South Dakota (where I am from) for family reunions and interring my father's cremains, I began to wonder 'Is it ever possible to return from where we once came? What would it be like to readjust to all the changes of what we knew growing up?' After days of seeing changes I decided I am right where God has planted me for this time in my life.

Speaking of change - Mission Encounter was held at Randolph Macon College. It was a great experience, and I am so fortunate to have been able to attend. Elements of the study I took are going to be very important to me as changes continue around me in every facet of my life.

On August 6, your James River District Mission Team met to look at upcoming events for the new-year. September brings the planning of a new year, new program book, and election of officers. Packets of information will arrive with important forms (way fewer than ever before!) that are essential for information needed for Mission Team to effectively do our job representing you. This newsletter has many dates you need to be aware of, so pull up

the calendar and jot them in the appropriate spaces as you read this publication, share them with the ladies in your units and make plans to be a part of an awesome year. To me, the most important form is that of Officers 2017 for your UMW groups.

CHANGE - As you come together for your first meetings this fall, please remember to do a bit of housekeeping in requesting updated information on your members - address, phone numbers, e-mail. Also remember to glean this information from your new members as well so they don't miss out on information. It will also be time for some of you to elect your new officers. THEN, please think of me and send this information so I can properly make all changes for the publication of the 2017 Yearbook. Last year I received many forms or e-mails that said 'no change' or 'same as last year'. This year I am asking for the form to be filled out as I had errors in the yearbook; some of which could have been avoided with updated forms. Please give this your prompt attention and return the forms as quickly as possible. I go to print early in November so am asking your information no later than November 1. 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.

Candee

TREASURER
Marie Hawks

434-246-3609
mathmumma@yahoo.com

Sisters in Christ,

If you have been like me, this has been a very busy summer. Remembering that our UMW year ends in August, please send me your remittances ASAP. Remember that September 8 is the deadline for all reports/remittances. If you have questions about Rainbow Woman or 5/6 Star reporting, refer to pages 5 and 9 in your yearbook. As always, feel free to contact me if you have questions or need forms. God bless....see you at our annual meeting in September.

Marie

Have you told your prayer partner you love her? Please remember to send your prayer partner a card or two or three during the year to let her know you are praying for her.

In the last newsletter I asked you to write a short review of a book from the Reading List and send it to me to include in this newsletter. I only received one review . . . from *Joanne Fox, Capron UMW*:

The one that impressed me most this year was *Across Many Mountains* by Yangzom Brauen. I knew nothing about Tibet, and I learned so much. The real life story is about a family that has to escape from Tibet to India during the Chinese takeover in the late 1950s – the time the Dalai Lama was also forced to flee. It is an almost unbelievable story of a little girl during that time of fleeing and how she ends up marrying a Scandinavian and eventually moving to New York. I can't tell you how much I have learned through this reading program – both about this country and also about the world.

I would like to thank Ms. Fox for sending in her review and hope it encourages more ladies to participate in the Reading Program. This year's program ends on September 1st. You need to finish reading your books and fill out your forms. The 2017 Reading Program books are available now from UMW Mission Resource Center. Some of the books are only available on Kindle this year. You will find that some of the past years' books have been discounted. May you be blessed and continue to learn something new every day. Read a book!

Debbie

**MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE &
OUTREACH
MARY RENNEY**

757-870-8515

The last year was a tremendous health challenge for me. Although I have had an up-hill climb, there was no doubt that God was on the recovery journey with me. Sometimes when we experience difficulties, big opportunities arise.

Let us remember to ask God to reveal our gifts to us in order that we may live life completely. There are ways we may use these gifts by giving others hope and encouragement. A prayer, get-well card, or casserole means so much to others, or just a phone call saying "I care."

Let's remember to keep a notepad handy so we won't lose our creative ideas. All of us have that special gift that has not been developed yet.

Remember we are the people who bring good news to those in darkness and doubt. Our prayers can change other people's lives. Enjoy the rewards of taking every opportunity to serve.

Philippians 2:15 "You shine as lights in the world."

Mary

SOCIAL ACTION
Diana Harbarger

804-526-4807
westielover1@verizon.net

I am pleased to announce that our 2016 Fall Day Apart will be held on Sunday, November 6, at Fort Grove UMC in Stony Creek. Our speaker will be Deaconess Emma Samson, Southeastern Jurisdictional for the "Be Just. Be Green." initiative of the United Methodist Women.

Emma will talk to us about this initiative as well as the 13 Steps to Sustainability . . . things that we can do at home, at our UMW gatherings, at our church, in our community. She is vibrant and very enthusiastic for this initiative. To learn more before the meeting, go to <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice>.

Our mission emphasis will be a love offering for mission teams from our district to Hungary. If writing a check, please make it payable to James River District.

Diana

NOMINATIONS
Betty Finklea

804-590-9332
bettyfinklea@gmail.com

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers for 2017-2018:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Diana Harbarger |
| Vice President | Pam Crandol |
| Secretary | Candee Speirs |
| Treasurer | Marie Hawks |
| Spiritual Growth | Carolyn Beale |
| Social Action | Sally McGrath |
| Education & Interpretation | Debbie Elder |
| Secretary of Program Resources | Linda Callis |
| Membership, Nurture, & Outreach | Mary Ellen Renney |
| Communications Coordinator | Debbie Baugham |
| Nominations Chairperson | Betty Finklea |

The slate will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 25.

Committee Members: Sylvia Kowalski & Sandy Kirkland

Betty

VUMAC
Dolly Porter

804-732-1217
dedolly@juno.com

At the last VUMAC Board meeting I attended in May, we were told of a company possibly interested in renovating the VUMAC building and converting it into a hotel. As you all know. Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center was my passion, and I know many of you are heart-broken over having to cease operation there. We have not given up hope that one day we will be able to use it again. My term on the Board would have expired in July 2016, but several members of the Board tendered their resignation in May, thus my term on the VUMAC Board has expired.

The Reverend Tommy Herndon, Board President, announced at the Annual Conference in Roanoke that a letter of intent had been signed with the Oxford Group LLC of Richmond to renovate VUMAC and convert the facility to a three-star hotel with restaurant. The hotel would be called "The Gables at Blackstone."

Thank you for the honor of serving our United Methodist Women in this capacity. It is my wish that our Conference, District, and Local UMW will continue to reach the needs of women, children, and youth. Bless you all as you serve through UMW. You have been a blessing to me!!

Dolly

WESLEY COMMUNITY SERV CTR
Marie Bowman

757-934-0901
mbowman@whro.net

Wesley Center has again sponsored a six-week summer camp for children led by Pat Burns. We were very grateful to receive a grant from the Virginia Conference UMW to provide teacher aide support. Their pizza garden has become a favorite activity for the children. And, they enjoy engaging in the music of Steel Can drumming.

Wesley is also partnering with two organizations: Uniting Youth in Action is operating a Kid's Café on Fridays to provide food, much like a school lunch program, over the weekend for children. Wesley and Bon Secours are co-sponsoring a parenting program. The program will run for 8 weeks and is now in its fourth week. With the opening of school just around the corner, Wesley is gearing up for packing school supplies.

Donations of the wood supports for a community garden plot and fertilizer for the plants have been received. Hopefully, we will have the structure in place during the fall season. Some of you expressed to me at the Mission Team meeting, that your unit is saving dimes and dollars just as we did for Blackstone and will be giving that portion to Wesley now that it is no longer needed for restoration of the Virginia UM Conference Center. Thank you so much. Please keep Wesley Community Service Center in your prayers as it strives to meet the needs of the community it serves.

Oh, I almost forgot! It will soon be time for P E C A N S! A 1-pound bag of mammoth sized pecan halves is just \$10. We will begin taking orders near the end of September. Let me know if your unit would like to sell them in your church.

Marie

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| September 8 | Deadline for Candle Burning to Sally McGrath Deadline for Living Into Our Purpose to Sally McGrath Deadline for reading achievements to Candee Speirs Deadline for names of deceased members to Sally McGrath Deadline for 5 & 6 Star info and Rainbow Giver to Marie Hawks Elect officers in local units for next year |
| September 10 | 3 rd Quarter Treasurer's Report – send to Marie Hawks |
| September 16-17 | Young Women's Event – Bridgewater UMC, Bridgewater |
| September 25 | District UMW Annual Meeting – 3 pm – Main Street UMC, Emporia |
| October 1 | Deadline for "The Compass" - send to Pattie Arwood |
| October 28-29 | Conference UMW Annual Meeting – Good Shepherd UMC, Henrico |
| November 1 | Deadline for submitting 2017 Officer List to Candee Speirs |
| November 6 | District UMW Fall Day Apart – 3 pm – Fort Grove UMC, Stony Creek |
| December 3 | Advent Retreat – Carson UMC, Carson |
| December 10 | 4 th Quarter Treasurer's Report – send to Marie Hawks |

**Mission Emphasis
for the District Annual Meeting is
the Food Pantry in Emporia**