

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

James River District UMW



THE COMPASS

October 2016

Sally McGrath, President

Pattie Arwood, Editor

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- A character in a book I read recently talked about making a 'gratitude' list – which is just what it sounds like – a list of all the things she was grateful for.
- As I journey through my last 3 months as your district president, I have my own gratitude list. It is a long one – but the top items are these: I am grateful for your prayers during my tenure as James River District UMW President; I am grateful for your support and for your willingness to embrace new ideas and to be flexible; I am grateful for those who helped out in myriad ways; I am grateful – truly grateful – for the opportunity to serve you. And I am grateful for the love I have felt every single day. I have been inspired by you and I stand in awe of you and the things that you do.
- Diana Harbarger has been installed as our new president and will take office on January 1, 2017. I know that you will give her the same love and support that you gave to me and that you will trust her to lead all of us into a new year with new ideas – with God's help.
- With Abundant Love –
- Sally*
Sally McGrath, President
James River District UMW
434-246-8022

Please note my new e-mail address:
sjm16048@gmail.com

**Have you hugged your
prayer partner today?
Please continue to pray
for her – but a card
occasionally would be
nice!**

VICE PRESIDENT
Pam Crandol

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Ladies, it has been a very busy few months since the last Compass. We have been planning for the rest of this year and for next year.

I certainly hope that you were able to attend the James River District Annual meeting at Main Street Emporia on September 25th. It was a wonderful meeting. We were able to give out packets to units that were there, give reading certificates and 5- and 6-Star Unit awards.

Pattie Arwood was recognized for her years of service as a James River District Board officer. She has completed her years of service.

We hope to see you at the Fall Day Apart Meeting on November 6, 2016, at Fort Grove UMC.

Pam

SECRETARY
Candee Speirs

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Fall, 'my season', is arriving in bits and pieces. Just as I get excited at the thought of 70 something high temperatures for this time of year we get a new heat wave. We might be beyond that though as we are getting a drenching that has kept me out of the yard and in the house more than I would like. I am excited for the turning of the leaves, the blooming of the fall flowers that take us into winter here in Virginia. God gives so many blessings in His creation around us every day. Take a moment and focus on at least one every day.

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 **2017 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. 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 3 at Advent Retreat**.

Candee

TREASURER
Marie Hawks

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I was sitting in a finance committee meeting recently working on our church's budget. Last weekend, our district approved our James River UMW budget for 2017. Next Saturday, I travel to Richmond to sit in and hopefully help set the Virginia Conference UMW budget.

As our local units gather in the fall to start a new fiscal year, may we prayerfully consider our own budgets. Look at and discuss the places where we send our money. Are they still needful? Are there new places to consider? Are the amounts in line with what is needed or should we increase/decrease our giving? Remember that VUMAC no longer exists so those "Dimes and Dollars for Blackstone" should be redirected to other designated places. Currently, I place those monies in the Legacy fund unless told differently.

I look forward to another successful year. Together we have accomplished much for the good of our community, nation and world. We are truly living the UMW pledge.

Marie

Carson UMW looks forward to welcoming you to the Advent Retreat. A continental breakfast will be available during registration. Each woman is asked to bring her own bag lunch.

PROGRAM RESOURCES
Debbie Elder

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Editor's Note: The following contribution was made by our Secretary Candee Speirs in Debbie's absence who is vacationing out West

Reading Program 2017 is up and ready for you to select your reading materials between now and August 30, 2017. This year, along with the new books added in program 2017 you can also read from the 2011-2016 list as long as you have not declared credit for the publication. Several of the book selections are now digital should you want them on your electronic readers. I've decided the down fall on this benefit is it makes book sharing more difficult with ladies in your units. Discover your reading selections on the web at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading program

In 2016, we had six children reading five books each to complete a reading plan. Twenty-six ladies completed Plan I; five completed Plan II and four completed Plan IV. Several ladies did some reading but did not complete a plan. 427 books were read in all. Reading encourages us to think outside the box as well as leading us into action as we discover new ways to be in mission with and to others.

Candee

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH
LINDA CALLIS**

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As UMW members we proclaim that we are women who believe. We believe in the Holy Trinity. We believe in the mission of helping women, children, and youth around the world. Some people have accused us of trying to bake people into being saved. The truth is that many of us believe that the cake will serve God's mission. God has given each of us a mission to fulfill. He has also granted us gifts and talents to fulfill that mission. For those of you who can bake, bake for God. If you can teach, teach God's love. Discover God's mission for you and fulfill it.

My job on the district mission team is changing. I now transition from spiritual growth to planning resources. However, I don't think the mission is that different. I encourage you to fulfill God's mission. Now I encourage you to read books for God.

Linda

**SOCIAL ACTION
Diana Harbarger**

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I hope to see you at Fall Day Apart on Sunday, November 6, at 3 pm, at Fort Grove UMC in Stony Creek! Our speaker is Deaconess Emma Samson will be speaking to us on Just Be Green as well as 13 Steps to Sustainability. Mission emphasis will be a love offering for mission teams from James River District to Hungary.

Diana

**NOMINATIONS
Betty Finklea**

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My thanks to our mission team who worked so faithfully to make this a wonderful year. I am happy to say that our President Sally McGrath whose term is up this year will be staying on the team in another position. Our thanks to Sally for a job well done!

Pattie Arwood and Marie Bowman will not be returning next year. We thank them for their dedicated service to the James River District. You will be missed!

We would like to welcome Carolyn Beale and Debbie Baugham to our team. Thank you for being willing to serve and accepting the nominations.

Our slate of officers for the year 2017 is as follows:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Spiritual Growth
Secretary of Program Resources
Social Action
Membership , Nurture & Outreach
Communications
Nominations Chairperson:
Committee Members:

Diane Harbarger
Pam Crandol
Marie Hawks
Candee Speirs
Carolyn Beale
Linda Callis
Sally McGrath
Mary Ellen Renney
Debbie Baugham
Betty Finklea
Sandy Kirkland
Sylvia Kowalski

Blessings and prayers for a spirit filled 2017.

Betty

**COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR
Pattie Arwood**

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It has been a wonderful eight-year journey serving on the District Mission Team . . . four years as Secretary of Program Resources, two as Secretary, and two as Communications Coordinator. My journey has taken me to events from one end of the James River District to the other and as far away as Ferrum College and the Henry Fork Service Center. I have seen some changes: the redistricting from the Petersburg District to the James River; of course, a change in officers from year to year; and, most recently, the closing of our beloved "Blackstone." I have met some delightful, dedicated ladies and made some lasting friendships.

If you think the women in your local unit are supportive and loving, I can tell you that those women who commit their time on the district level are at least as dedicated, if not more so. Barely knowing anyone, I clearly remember attending my first District Mission Team meeting in Enon in January 2008 . . . my reservations were short-lived as they warmly welcomed me and were receptive to my thoughts.

At the District Annual Meeting last month, someone said to me, "don't be a stranger." Well, not to worry . . . I have been elected president of my local unit, a position I haven't held since 2010, so I hope to see you at various events next year. God bless each United Methodist Woman as she works to create a world in which all women, youth, and children can thrive.

Pattie

Recently I had an opportunity to attend a district meeting. The meeting was informative and great fun. Inviting unit members to attend meetings other than officers will encourage them to also become officers. The UMW find joy in service and fellowship.

Our unit gained several new members last spring by changing meeting time from days to evenings. The time change allowed ladies that work during the day to attend the evening meetings. Some of the most successful meetings are when we have missionaries that have visited foreign countries. One of our largest meeting participations was when we had a lady that lived in Germany tell about her and her brother's experiences as children during World War II and what it was like moving to America as teenagers.

Let us continue to gain new UMW members by sharing our programs and mission opportunities with prospective members and prayerfully continue to bring joy, laughter, and comfort to our families, friends, and our church. Grace be with you.

Mary

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 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 |

Come to the Advent Retreat prepared to WORK!! We will be filling 100 zip lock bags with hygiene items for distributing to homeless people around the district ~~ items such as washcloths, hand towels, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. Be sure to get a good night's sleep – it's gonna be a busy day!!!

“Sing a Song of Promise”
Reverend Donna B Smith
Pastor, Lebanon United Methodist Church
Chaplain, Greenville Correctional Center

ADVENT RETREAT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016
CARSON UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH, CARSON

9:30 am Registration & Continental Breakfast
10:00 Business
10:30-11:30 Speaker
11:30-1:00 pm Lunch (bring a bag lunch) & Hands-on Mission Project
1:00 Communion

MISSION EMPHASIS

Greenville Correctional Center
A love offering to provide the
the Word of God through media
for those with reading difficulties
(checks payable to James River District)

AND/OR

Martha for the Homeless
gloves, stocking hats, &
tube socks for homeless adults
and children in Petersburg

REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 15, 2016

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

- NAME: _____ \$5
- NAME: _____ \$5
- NAME: _____ \$5
- NAME: _____ \$5
- NAME: _____ \$5
- NAME: _____ \$5
- NAME: _____ \$5
- NAME: _____ \$5

James River District
United Methodist Women



Fall Day Apart

A Day of Learning and of Advocacy

When: Sunday, November 6th,
3:00 to 5:00 pm



Where: Fort Grove United Methodist Church
12471 Church Street, Stony Creek 23882

Our Speaker: Deaconess Emma Samson
Southeastern Jurisdictional Guide
for the “Be Just. Be Green.” Initiative
of the United Methodist Women



Emma will talk to us on 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 get a step-up before coming to the meeting, check it out at unitedmethodistwomen.org.

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