



BRIDGE BUILDER

UMW Purpose

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.

May 23, 2017 Volume 02-17

United Methodist Women

Alexandria District, Virginia Conference

Serving Communities

President Maria Ward

Alexandria UMW – 800+ strong *Serving God's Community*

You can proudly count yourself among more than 800 UMW sisters in the Alexandria District. Our smallest unit has 6 members and our largest has 135. Each of you continues to be committed to faith, hope, and love in action. Together we study and enjoy programs from this year's program book "A Call to **Community**;" use the Prayer Calendar to pray together for our joys and concerns; stand up for our sisters and brothers who need our help; and act as God's hands and feet in tiny and grand ways to bring about His kingdom. Every prayer prayed, every UMCOR kit assembled, every potluck dish shared, every cookie baked, every book read, every meeting attended, every school backpack stuffed – all reflect your devotion to God's plan and **community**. Thank you so much for continuing your devotion to UMW!



Days for Girls

Our bodies are wondrously made, and as women we experience the joys, hopes, mysteries, and (admitted!) frustrations of what we're capable of. Here in Northern Virginia, most of us most of the time understand what's happening and have the education and resources to take care of ourselves. Sadly, this isn't true for all women. Days for Girls is an international organization that provides hygiene kits and education to girls and women so that they can go to school and work without shame. DfG does this by sewing reusable menstrual pads that can be washed and reused. The pads are assembled in kits and distributed to schools and workplaces along with education about menstrual cycles, including charts for tracking cycles and illustrations of the female reproductive system. The girls and women also receive information about defending themselves physically. The kits, education, and care combine to make it possible for girls to stay in school and for women to go to work.

To learn more about the amazing work of DfG, visit www.daysforgirls.org. Here in Northern Virginia, two groups meet regularly to assemble kits and teach people more about how the organization works. You can help these teams on the second Saturday afternoon of the month in

South Arlington or the third Saturday afternoon of the month in Vienna. Trust me, you don't need any special skills to help!

If you and your unit would like to contribute funds (what the organization needs most other than your time), you can find out how to do so on the Web site. Another way of donating is with quilter's cotton fabric – 100% cotton fabric with medium to dark colors, but not with any patterns that show people or animals.

Flying airplanes and kayaking...

...eating BBQ and volunteering as a paramedic. Who combines these favorite activities? Reverend Rob Vaughn, the pastor leading our Arlington-Alexandria Bi-District Day on May 20! Currently the pastor at Community of Faith church in Herndon, Reverend Vaughn will share his passion for serving God with all of one's heart, soul and mind as he leads this session on The Bible and Human Sexuality. To register, use the form in this newsletter or call Frances Ellis at 703-476-1127. Her e-mail address is fwellis@aol.com.

How I Like to Spend My Summer Vacation

Putting faith, hope, and love in action will lead Virginia UMW members and friends this year to Bon Air UMC in Richmond for the weekend of July 28-29 for this summer's Mission Encounter. Women (and men, teens, and children too!) will jump into studies of covenant communities, mission conferences in the U.S., and climate justice. All are welcome, not just UMW members.

Your interesting weekend begins on Friday morning as you gather to greet old and new friends and begin your selected study. Saturday will be full of study, prayer, reflection, great music and fellowship, and ice cream! The event will end on Saturday at 5:00.

The registration fee for the weekend study and meals is \$99. If you need hotel accommodations, the Holiday Inn Express on Mayland Drive in Henrico is offering a rate of \$99 for Friday evening. The hotel is about 20 minutes away from Bon Air UMC. Please make your own reservations; these are not included in your Mission Encounter registration fee. Their rooms can comfortably accommodate two people.

What's Your Purpose?



... to know God ... to experience freedom ... to develop a creative, supportive fellowship ... to expand concepts of mission.

Some days, I am sure that I am serving God and making a difference in the lives of the people I come in contact with. Some days, all I manage is to marvel and give thanks for simple things like dandelions. Then there are the days when my purpose feels like I just need to be able to put one foot in front of the other until I can lay my head back down on my pillow. How can I track my real progress in growing in love and service? I use the UMW Living into Our Purpose form (LIOP) to remind me of the ways I am serving and growing, and to encourage me to try new things too.

Have I learned about the books on the Reading Program so that I can expand my brain a bit? Have I sent a gift in mission card to someone special? How about using the Prayer Calendar every day for a week (or a month) to find daily scriptures, persons in need of prayer, and missions to learn about? The big surprise is that many of the things we do already, both individually and as units, all contribute to a full LIOP. Let's all decide to use the LIOP more regularly to recognize the ways that we are UMW! To get the latest form and start understanding just how much you're doing, visit vaumw.com.

2017 Alexandria District Mission Team

President	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com
Vice President	Marty Bickford martyb@martfour.com
Secretary	Bianca Roberts roberts955@gmail.com
Treasurer	Martha Lee marthalee4664@gmail.com
Chair, Nominations Committee	Carla Mitchell plfd1221@gmail.com
Program Resources Coordinator	Alnetta McCall netta531@yahoo.com
Social Action Coordinator	Liz Hoefler lizhoefler@verizon.net
Spiritual Growth Coordinator	Candace Means canmeans@gmail.com
Communications Coordinator	Donna Sapp donnaiosapp@hotmail.com

Genesis 9:13 – “I have set my bow in the clouds...”



God told Noah that he put the rainbow in the sky as a promise that He would never again wipe away His creation. As UMW members, we can see rainbows

as a promise that we have committed to special UMW giving. When you become a Rainbow Giver, your \$60 gift supports

an additional pledge gift beyond your current one, a gift in mission card, a gift in memory card, a World Thank offering, and a special mission recognition pin for a special person you are honoring. In order to be recognized at our October District Day meeting, please submit your Rainbow Giver forms by July 1. Go to www.novaumc.org/ax-umw-resources for form.

Maria Ward
President

The Legacy Fund: What is it?

In 2019, United Methodist Women – 800,000 of us – will celebrate 150 years in mission, doing God’s work on behalf of women, children and youth in communities around the globe. Since 1869, we have not “sat on our hands” and watched the world go by; we have weighed in on many important social issues; we have made our voices heard. And the world is a better place because of our belief in the PURPOSE and putting faith, hope and love in action. Do you think those eight women in Boston so many years ago had any idea that what they started would be alive and well today? What a legacy!

Along the way, we’ve had big shoes to fill. So, to continue to “live into our purpose,” the Legacy Fund was created to underwrite the UMW’s ministries for another 150 years. The interest generated from this endowment fund will be added to Mission Giving funds to formulate the national budget, which will continue to finance the mission programs of United Methodist Women.

Since the inception of this five-year campaign to raise \$15,000,000 by the UMW’s 150th Anniversary in 2019, we are almost at the half-way point. Can you help the UMW reach its goal? If you would like to contribute to the Legacy Fund to ensure the UMW is here for generations to come, please complete the form found

in the back of this newsletter, and submit it with your gift to your local treasurer. You will be recognized at District Day and presented with a “150” Legacy pin. Thank you for your support.

Marty Bickford
Vice President



Greetings, UMW Sisters from the Reading Program,

I would like to thank all the ladies who purchased the new 2017-20 UMW Handbook and the “Bible and Human Sexuality” books. If anyone else would like to purchase these books, they can be ordered from the UMW Resource Center website (<http://www.umwmissionresources.org/>) or by phone (800-305-9857). The UMW Handbook can also be downloaded for free from the website.

The United Methodist Women’s theme for this year is “A Call to Community.” There are several books on the Reading Program list that deal with community. One of the study books for Mission Encounter this year is “Living as a Covenant Community.” This book can be purchased from the UMW Resource Center or at Mission Encounter for \$10.00.

One of the books that I read from the reading list is “Living into Hope: a Call to Spiritual Action for Such a Time as This.” This book causes us to think about the question “Who is my neighbor?” It encourages us to have concern for the whole world. Many of the books this year deal with community healing. The subjects range from guns and violence, economic injustice, the environment and race relations. I hope you will consider reading some of these books. Learning about these issues will make us a stronger, more compassionate community of United Methodist Women.

Keep up the reading.

Alnetta McCall
Secretary of Program Resources

Spiritual Growth

When the word "service" is used, the image of practical physical work may be what comes to mind. That is what I thought about when I heard our newsletter theme would be Service and I am the Spiritual Growth Coordinator. There is so much physical need, that abstract service, such as art and literature, may seem like a luxury. However, while the body has physical needs, the soul also has a need for spiritual growth and identity.

I discovered an article about B. Clementina Butler on the UMW website.

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/transformative-education/mission-study/social-issues/joy-to-the-world/united-methodist-women-in-mission-yesterday,-today>

She was a missionary to India in the early 1900s. The article says that Butler was "gripped by the idea of providing Christian literature for children and teenagers in their own languages as a way of supporting their spiritual growth amid situations unfriendly to Christianity." Butler was concerned that converts had no Christian art available for their home; they only had access to other religious art. She worked to found the Committee on Christian Literature for Women and Children in Mission Lands. It was the first mission organization to systematically sponsor native Christian art. She commissioned Christian pictures in Indian styles in the 1930s and sold at cost for 2 ¼ cents apiece. Later a donor sent 2600 copies as Christmas presents to workers among the poor. The organization held annual contests for the best indigenous Christian art in India. The article says that the group did this at a time when most mission literature was still using pictures of blonde and blue-eyed Madonnas.

I recently had the pleasure of creating a daily Lenten devotional for the district and reading the comments women provided on the different posts about their

thoughts or how they were encouraged.
<http://meansofgrace.blog/umw/lent2017/>.

I am grateful to be allowed to contribute service in a different way. The word "service" can be approached with creativity for how we can interact with the other.

Candace Means
<https://meansofgrace.com/>



Sydenstricker UMC decorated for Palm Sunday

Social Action: Serving the Community by Acting in Community

The etymology of the word community ultimately leads to the Latin word *communis*, which means "shared in common." A community may share a location, governmental structure, religion, academic or professional pursuit, socioeconomic level, racial or ethnic background, needs, or some other binding characteristic(s). Each of us belongs to a number of separate and overlapping communities.

The UMW itself is a form of community. We share the United Methodist faith, the desire to serve the larger community, and our gender, as well as other commonalities. As a function of our UMW (and UMC) community, we have both the opportunity and channels for serving local, national, and global communities. Because we are children of a God who made us in His image and loves us all, let's always remember that we belong to all those communities. At the most basic level, we share a lot in common.

On the other hand, people represent substantive differences, not only between communities but within them. For my purposes in this article, I am defining our social action community as the geographic area covered by the Alexandria District. Even within that

narrow definition, if our community was ever monolithic, it certainly is not now. To do social action in the Alexandria District requires a deepened understanding of the diverse elements of our larger community and the variety of issues that affect them. (On a personal note, I recall that when my son began ninth grade in 2001, his high school (JEB Stuart) was featured on the cover of National Geographic, and cited as being the most diverse high school in America. That was 16 years ago!)

Recently, our wonderfully diverse community has witnessed some especially unfortunate incidents that work against justice for the poor and the vulnerable: anti-Semitism, hateful words spray-painted on walls, hypothermia guests rounded up at Rising Hope, and other expressions of prejudice and hatred. Our big, wealthy country, acting out of fear, has been pretty stingy with help for refugees. The very people who have been building our houses and cleaning them for years, as well as their little children, have been subjected to extreme anxiety. People have come very close to losing essential health care. Efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, which affects the poor in many ways, have been diminished.

It certainly would be better if we were witnessing the lives of our fellow community members being improved rather than watching them hurt. After all, the goal of social action is to make systematic changes that bring long-term improvements in peoples' lives. It seems, however, that as these negative things have occurred, the bonds of community have been getting stronger. We are seeking a deepened understanding, and people are answering an almost prophetic call to serve the community through social action. I am aware that my

beautiful UMW sisters have been showing support for the poor and vulnerable through marches, legislative advocacy, rallies, vigils, hands-on support to refugee families, and numerous other ways. You go, girls! In the past few months, a number of opportunities for building relationship, joint action, and deepened understanding have presented themselves. We have received and responded to invitations to interfaith gatherings, meals at mosques, and other events sponsored by faith-based organizations. UMW sisters have engaged in social action alongside community members of different faiths, no faith, or unlike us in other ways. While we have been serving the community, we have been acting in community, building relationships that will help us achieve social justice for those who need it most. As this moment of urgency passes (and I pray it will) let's nurture those relationships and build even more for the social action initiatives of the future.

Two of my favorite sources of information about opportunities for serving the local community and building relationship through social action are the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy at www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org and Fairfax County's Community Interfaith Coordination at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic/. You can sign up for newsletters from both.

I will do my best to keep you posted on additional opportunities from other sources, and I welcome and will share information that you send to me.

Yours in Christ,
Liz Hoefler
Mission Coordinator for Social Action
lizhoefler@verizon.net



Pastor Ruth Burgess pf Bruen Chapel At
Community Seder



Ecumenical Advocacy Days at the Senate

2017 Alexandria District UMW Calendar with Due Dates for District Forms

Date	Activity	District Officer Contact
Jan 21 9:30 am	Executive Committee Meeting Annandale UMC Bridge Builder Deadline	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com Donna Sapp donnajosapp@hotmail.com
Feb 2 7 am	UMW Day at General Assembly Richmond	Liz Hoefler lizhoefer@verizon.net
Mar 10	1st Quarter Remittance – Treasurers	Martha Lee marthalee4664@gmail.com
Mar 25 9 am-3 pm	Mini-Mission Encounter St. John's UMC, Springfield	Marty Bickford martyb@martfour.com
Mar 30 - Apr 1	Virginia Conference Mission Team and Executive Team Meetings- Staunton	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com
Apr 22 9 am	Executive Committee Meeting & Program Planning - Good Shepherd UMC Bridge Builder Deadline	Marty Bickford martyb@martfour.com Donna Sapp donnajosapp@hotmail.com
Apr 21-24	Ecumenical Advocacy Days Arlington, VA	Liz Hoefler lizhoefer@verizon.net
Apr 28-30	VA Conference Spiritual Life Retreat Leader: Rev. Dr. Denise Honeycutt 4-H Educational Center, Front Royal	www.vaumw.com
May 5 11am	Church Women United World Friendship Day Del Ray UMC, Alexandria	Marty Bickford martyb@martfour.com
May 20 9 am-3 pm	Arlington/Alexandria Bi-District Day Apart Arlington Host District Friendship UMC, Falls Church	Marty Bickford martyb@martfour.com
Jun 1	Nominations Committee accepting names for 2018 slate of officers	Carla Mitchell plfd1221@gmail.com
Jun 3	UMW Day at Ferrum College	www.vaumw.com
Jun 10	2nd Quarter Remittance – Treasurers	Martha Lee marthalee4664@gmail.com
Jun 16-18 Jun 17	Virginia UMC Annual Conference – Hampton UMW Breakfast	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com
Jul 28-30	VA Conference Mission Encounter Bon Air UMC, Richmond	www.vaumw.com

Date	Activity	District Officer Contact
Aug 12 9 am	Executive Committee Meeting & Finance Planning - St. Matthew's UMC Bridge Builder Deadline	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com Martha Lee marthalee4664@gmail.com Donna Sapp donnajosapp@hotmail.com
Sep 9 Noon- 4 pm	District Spiritual Life Event Location to be determined	Candace Means canmeans@gmail.com
Sep 10	All District Reports due for FY 2017 3rd Quarter Remittance (Candle Burning; 5/6 Star Units; Rainbow Givers) Reading Program..... Living Into Our Purpose.....	Martha Lee marthalee4664@gmail.com Anetta McCall netta531@yahoo.com Marty Bickford martyb@martfour.com
Sep 15-16	VA Conference Young Women's Event Camp Overlook, Harrisonburg	www.vaumw.com
Sep 30	Alexandria District UMC Conference	
Oct 3	Wesley Learning Resource Center VA/BWC UMW – Chapel Service Wesley Seminary, Washington, DC	Marty Bickford martyb@martfour.com
Oct 7	VA Conference Budget Meeting Glen Allen	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com Martha Lee marthalee4664@gmail.com
Oct 13	Rising Hope Gala The Waterford, Springfield	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com
Oct 21 9 am–3 pm	District Day & Leadership Development Location to be determined	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com
Oct 27-28	VA Conference UMW 45 th Annual Meeting Trinity UMC, Richmond	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com
Nov 3 11 am	Church Women United World Community Day	
Nov 18	Executive Committee Meeting St. George's UMC Bridge Builder Deadline	Maria Ward maria.ward@gmail.com Donna Sapp donnajosapp@hotmail.com
Dec 10	4th Quarter Remittance - Treasurers	Martha Lee marthalee4664@gmail.com



THE LEGACY FUND

Celebrate United Methodist Women! 150 Years and Counting...



United Methodist Women has a rich legacy as a mission movement since 1869, and we are building for the next 150 years of service in God's mission on behalf of women, children and youth in communities down the street and around the world.

Make your Legacy Fund gift today!



Please retain for your records
Virginia Conference
United Methodist Women
My Legacy Fund gift:

Every member is encouraged to make a gift to The Legacy Fund of at least \$18.69 per year, over and above her Pledge to Mission, for five years (2015-2019).

- \$1,869 \$500 \$300 \$200 \$50 \$18.69 Other _____
- monthly annually beginning _____ 20____ (month/year)

Turning Faith, Hope and Love into Action since 1869.
All donations tax-deductible. Give your Legacy Fund commitment form and your gift to your local United Methodist Women treasurer.

----- Cut along dotted line / Keep top portion -----

Yes! I want to celebrate United Methodist Women's 150th anniversary and help ensure we continue to put faith, hope and love into action for another 150 years.

Virginia Conference United Methodist Women
My Legacy Fund gift:

- \$1,869 \$500 \$300 \$200 \$50 \$18.69 Other _____
- enclosed monthly annually beginning _____ 20____

In honor / memory of _____

Please contact me about including United Methodist Women in my **estate planning**.

Please contact me about the **major gift program**.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Conference: *Virginia Conference* District: _____

Give your Legacy Fund commitment form and your gift to your local United Methodist Women treasurer

Frequently Asked Questions about

The Legacy Fund / 150th Anniversary Celebration:



Our Virginia Every Member Legacy Fund Goal:

That every member of
United Methodist Women
make a gift to
The Legacy Fund
of at least
\$18.69 per year,
over and above
her Pledge to Mission,
for five years
(2015-2019).

What is The Legacy Fund?

- A key element of the 150th Anniversary celebration in 2019.
- A designated fund (endowment) of the national office of United Methodist Women. (Only interest can be expended.)

What is the purpose of The Legacy Fund?

- To assure the continuation of ministries with women, children and youth, worldwide, into the next 150 years.
- To enable United Methodist Women to respond more adequately to new and emerging needs.
- To minimize the risk of severe budget fluctuation in years of recession, regional financial crisis, or change in giving by the membership.

How will the funds be used?

- The total program of United Methodist Women is mission. Interest from The Legacy Fund will be added to Mission Giving funds to formulate the national budget of United Methodist Women. (Mission Giving is the largest source of that budget which includes grants to National Mission Institutions such as the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, international programs and projects, program resource production, training, and more.)

Why should I give to The Legacy Fund?

- The Legacy Fund is OUR special anniversary gift to future United Methodist Women members and ministries.
- To "pass on" the legacy we have inherited. "To stake out our legacy for future generations." (January 2015 response, page 3). Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, India, is an outgrowth of the work of the first missionary of our organization. The College motto is: "We Receive to Give."
- Because we believe in the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women and want our daughters, granddaughters, nieces and friends to share our sense of meaningful "sisterhood."
- To be part of the joyous celebration in 2019 culminating 150 years of ministry.

How does the money get to the National Office?

- Gifts are given to the local treasurer who sends the Legacy Fund money and commitment cards to the District treasurer following regular procedures. There is a line on the local treasurer Remittance form for The Legacy Fund.

Does a Legacy Fund gift count for the individual or Unit Pledge to Mission Giving?

- No. This is a special additional gift to celebrate the 150th anniversary. In fact, it is critical that we sustain and even increase our Pledge to Mission Giving during this five year campaign; the needs have never been greater.

How do we give? Annually? All at once? What about non-cash gifts?

- Each person can determine her schedule of giving; any schedule is appropriate.
- Non-cash gifts of stock, property, life insurance, etc., can be given through the United Methodist Women National Office. Contact the Treasurer's office at 212-870-3740.

How do I get a Legacy 150 pin?

- When you turn in a Commitment Card, you will receive a pin at your district annual meeting.



For more information visit:
Virginia Conference United Methodist Women - www.vaumw.org
United Methodist Women National Office - www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/give