We opened the Second Quarter of 2018 with Easter Sunday. What a glorious way to begin a new month in a new season of our lives! We pray "give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". We pray for all to receive daily bread, both physical and spiritual. We ask for forgiveness of our trespasses... our pride, our prejudices, the misinformation that we hold as facts, our resistance to open our minds and hearts to those who cry out for relief from persecution here in our country and throughout the world.

Lord, help us open our hearts to share our blessings with those in need. Let us look upon those who need relief and hope and offer it joyfully. Let us see no injustice too big to tackle with your help and guidance. Please continue in prayer as Mark said in chapter 9 "...all things are possible to him that believeth."

We celebrate the Retirement of John Hatcher this month from the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth. "John's forty-eight years is a long-time commitment to the work of women, children, youth and families -in the Portsmouth community and beyond- and we want John to know how thankful we are for his service. " Contributions can be sent to Wesley CSC and clearly mark on the Check "In honor of John Hatcher" to: Attention: Vanessa, Wesley Community Service Center, 1701 Elm Ave., Portsmouth, VA 23704

The Virginia Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat in Lynchburg, VA. at Eagle Eyrie will be held April 20-22. The application can be found on website: vaumw.com: EVENTS: Spiritual Life Retreat. Print off registration form and mail. The deadline for registration is Friday, April 13.

Tickets for the UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference on Saturday, June 16 at 6:45 am at the Hampton Roads Conference Center are available for $20.00 each. Call or email me to obtain your ticket. (804-640-5355 sdoyle22@our verizon.net} Checks are to be made to "York River District UMW" The deadline for tickets is June 7, 2018. Gluten free or vegetarian plates are available to order at the time of your ticket purchase for no additional cost.

Richmond District and Rappahannock River District are holding a Joint Cluster Meeting on Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 10 am - 2 pm at Wright's Chapel UMC, to host discussion on the progress of the "The Commission on the Way Forward". We will engage in conversation on the work of The Commission on the Way Forward which was appointed by the Council of Bishops of the UMC. Our Sisters in the UMW of the UMC need to be educated on this important process in the life of our church. Up to date information and small group discussions regarding the United Methodist Church as it relates to issues of unity and human sexuality will be the topic. Please hold the date and start planning your Carpool now. From Richmond, it is about a 48-minute drive up Route 1 or either I-95 to Wright's Chapel UMC, 8063 Ladysmith Road, Ruther Glen, VA 22546 . Bring a Brown Bag lunch please, beverages and desserts provided. More to follow as the Program is finalized.

Blessings,
Scotty Doyle 804-640-5355 sdoyle22@verizon.net
OUR UPCOMING SPECIAL UMW DATES FOR 2018
MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

I wish for you to put these Special Dates on your Calendar and spread the WORD with your UMW Sisters. Join with us as "We Encounter Those Special Spaces with God & Neighbor". 

April 20th - 22nd **UMW Spiritual Life Retreat**, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, VA

April 29th Celebration in honor of the Retirement of John Hatcher, Director of The Wesley Community Service Center for 48 years!

May 4th - 1st **'On The Road In Mission Express' to Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church**, Alexandria and to **The Heartwood Ministry** in the Rappahannock District, Stafford

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

May 18th - 20th **United Methodist Assembly**, Columbus, OH

June 2nd-3rd **UMW Day at Ferrum College** (Details TBA)

June 16th-18th **Virginia Annual Conference**, Hampton, VA:

June 17th **UMW Breakfast** at Annual Conference

July 28th-30th **Virginia Conference Mission Encounter**, 4-H Conference Center

August 18th **District UMW Trip to Shalom Farms**

Sept 8th Richmond District **Mini-Mission Encounter** (TBA)

Sept 14th -15th VA Conference **UMW Young Women's Event**, Camp Overlook, Keezletown, VA

Sept 22nd **District UMW Annual Meeting** Lakeside UMC Speaker: Andris Salter, Operations Officer, Office of General Secretary, UMW - New York, NY

Sept 23rd **Annual Chickahominy Pow Wow 1pm -4pm**. Hopping to travel for the afternoon celebration. Arriving in time for 'The Grand Entry.'

Sept 27th-28th **'2nd On The Road In Mission Express' to The Eastern Shore'**. More details later.

I hope for each of you the Very Best as we strive to learn and grow together in those 'Sacred Spaces' we each experience in our own paths. THANKS for your support you continue in mission workings of UMW!! Also, thanks for the wonderful turnout for our Prayer Breakfast last Saturday.

God Bless Each one, and if I can be of any assistance, please call or e-mail me. If you are a mother, ahead of time - Happy Mother's Day.
In His Service Together, Love, Ruth Wilkinson cusmile2day@hotmail.com
Hi Richmond District UMW

This is the first quarter report for 2018 Mission Giving and Designated Gifts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Quarter</th>
<th>2nd Quarter</th>
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THANK YOU

This is a reminder that you can start thinking and sending in money on becoming a rainbow giver, a five and six start unit, and candle burning. You will receive the deadline for becoming a rainbow giver and candle burning in the next newsletter.

May God continue to bless all of us

Rosa Lewis, Treasurer

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**Spiritual Growth**

What is Prayer?

Webster's dictionary says "Prayer is supplication or expression addressed to God; An honest request or wish."

Do we as individuals make supplication to God? Are we too busy to take time out of our daily schedule to seek God and find him whose arms are stretched out daily saying "Behold me, Behold me". Do we give thanks to Him who keeps us during the night and woke us up this morning in our right mind, with food clothes and shelter. He takes us safely to our workplace those of us that work outside the homes. Do we meditate on Him? He gets the praise, majestic Jesus.

Men are always to pray! How can we worship a God we do not know? We hear about him often and see some of the works that he has done, but how can we serve him whom we do not love? To know him is to love him!

Blessings,

Hilda Watson
Spring is finally here! Or is it? As I write this, it seems that winter does not want to leave us, although it has loosened its grip periodically for us to hang up our winter coats and enjoy a few warmer days. The weather is so changeable that we can’t put our faith in it or the weather forecasters. But we worship a God who does not change, “from age to age the same”, and His love for us never changes. Another thing that never changes is that He wants us to share that love with the rest of the world. We do this in our communities with our hands-on mission work and across the globe through our financial donations. Our United Methodist Women have an excellent tool to guide us in our work for God’s Kingdom: Our Purpose, which clearly states who we are and what we are doing. We can track what we are doing as individuals and within our groups by using the updated “Living Into Our Purpose Form”, which is found in your District Yearbook and in the previous WORD. Completed forms are due to me by August 15 for recognition at the District Annual Meeting in September. Please do not use the old forms, because the new one has important changes. For anyone with a heart for mission, the 2018 Mission Encounter will be held July 27-29 at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake, and I hope every unit will have someone there. The registration form with details is found in this issue of the WORD.

Blessings,
Barbara Tuttle
Btuttle48@verizon.net <mailto:Btuttle48@verizon.net>
804-271-2289

Membership Nurture and Outreach

The United Methodist Women 2017 Census

On March 30, 2018 we reached the last day to enter Richmond District UMW 2017 census information. After a training workshop in November, two WORD articles, more than 25 e-mails and 20+ phone calls we are confident that we have done everything we can to ensure that each of our 37 units has reported their 2017 census information. Now we await word from the UMW national office as to which units have reported successfully and how many members we have out there! Thank you to all of you who took the time to assemble and submit your numbers, answer the many survey questions, and let me know that you were able to do it! We look forward to being able to share your results in a future issue of the WORD.

Kathy Dictor
What Does Social Action Look Like?

Between eighty and ninety percent (80% -90%) of the jobs in the metropolitan Richmond area (roughly the same as the UM Richmond District boundaries) are inaccessible by public transportation. In 2017 public transportation is absolutely necessary for twenty percent (20%) of the people living in the City of Richmond and the counties of Chesterfield, Henrico, and Hanover. This is information provided to us at both the January 7, 2018 District Conference and Leadership Training Event and our Richmond District “Hearts for Justice Tea” on February 17, 2018 by Rev. Ben Campbell, formerly head of the Richmond Hill ecumenical retreat center on Church Hill.

Who are these 20%? - They are our brothers and sisters who can’t afford a vehicle. This means they are at a disadvantage of getting to 80% - 90% of the jobs in our area. Is that just? Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience guide me to the conclusion that it is not. Justice would be making public transportation widely accessible.

How does this relate to the United Methodist Women (UMW) function of social action? The installation service for mission coordinators for social action says “Christians cannot be true to the Gospel and be indifferent to the plight of the hurting people of the earth. Will you help the women of this district find ways to be involved in the social issues of your district, of the country and of the world?” That’s a pretty serious question, isn’t it?

If you agree that it’s unjust for people to have unequal access to job opportunities, here are three specific actions you can take:
1. You can read online or print articles from the paper about decisions the City and surrounding counties are making regarding public transportation. (I actually read and then clip and save articles to be tangible reminders.)
2. You can support increased accessibility to jobs by being willing to attend two (2) board of supervisors meetings a year, as part of representation by RVA Rapid Transit. You don’t have to say anything; just be present to support equality of access throughout metro Richmond.
3. You can sign up for information about rapid transit teams in either Henrico or Chesterfield County. You can then decide if you want to stay involved or not.

Email me at wenda.singer@yahoo.com if you’re interested in either 2 or 3. We’ll coordinate with RVA Rapid Transit, which is an ecumenical community organization that began at Richmond Hill (see above) and grew out of a desire for everyone in the Richmond area to have access to public transportation. United Methodists are “connectional” by nature and this is a wonderful opportunity to be connected. Or just contact me if you want to talk about the issue.

Plug for Mission Encounter: Economic inequality, a current UMW priority, is included in the new study “What About Our Money?” being offered at Mission Encounter this July. See the attached registration form for details.

In His Love,
Wenda Singer, Mission Coordinator for Social Action
wenda.singer@yahoo.com
Rev. DR. Tereesa Smith
Retreat Leader:
Finding Peace Through the Psalms

April 20-22, 2018
Spiritual Life Retreat
Methodist Women
Virginia Conference United Methodist Church

MISSION Emphasis for Retreat: Wesley Community Service

**********************************************************
They have an adult daughter, Tiffany, Superintendent of Redskins and NFL. Dr. Smith is married to the District Superintendent of Red Bank. Smith earned a doctor of ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2006. He is married to the District Superintendent of Red Bank. Smith is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and serves as pastor of New Hope United Methodist Church and as director of the Conference. She is a gifted writer, inspiring speaker, passionate witness, and

Rev. DR. Tereesa Smith
### Registration Deadline: April 13, 2018

757-851-6977, backtoweight@gmail.com

**TOOE VISION: 2111 Phoenix Ave, Hampton, VA 23664-1143**

**Virginia Conference United Methodist Women to register:**

- Fill out registration form and check for the total amount payable to:
- $15.00 — Sunday lunch
- $15.00 — Sunday breakfast
- $15.00 — Dinner

**Day Attendance:** $20 registration fee plus cost of meals

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**NOTE: Above prices do include room fees and meals.**

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<tr>
<td>$15.00 — Sunday lunch</td>
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<td>$15.00 — Sunday breakfast</td>
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<td>$15.00 — Dinner</td>
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**Total for Overnight Registration payable: |

| $100.00 | 16 Overnight Conference Room fees |
| $110.00 | Sunday lunch at 5:30 — Sunday dinner |
| $145.00 | Friday through Sunday (without Friday dinner) |
| $155.00 | Friday through Sunday (with Friday dinner) |

** Overnight Attendance:** Please check-in when you will arrive:

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**Please note:** Any condition requiring special room arrangements, diet, etc.

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April 20-22, 2018

Spiritual Life Retreat

Virginia Conference United Methodist Women
Conference Immigration Summit
Saturday, May 19, 2018 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Ramsey Memorial UMC

In 2017, Bishop Sharma Lewis formed the Virginia Conference Committee on Immigration Outreach to help the conference communicate the Gospel as it relates to immigrants and refugees. The committee also seeks to help the conference understand issues related to immigrants and refugees, and how to advocate for them. In partnership with the General Board of Church and Society, Just Neighbors, and the Southeastern Jurisdiction Hispanic Caucus, the committee is sponsoring an Immigration Summit in the Richmond area to educate and empower those who want to be in ministry to immigrants and refugees.

The planned agenda is as follows:

10:00-10:30 Worship - What does the Bible say?
   What does the UMC say?

   How people legally immigrate.
   Problems and struggles with the process.

11:30-12:30 Current Events - Executive orders, increased deportation, travel bans etc.
   What is happening at State level?
   Overview on what the churches and other groups can do, and levels of sanctuary churches.

12:30-1:00 Lunch Break

1:00-3:00 Breakout sessions - 1 hour each
   Know your rights“‘You never know whose eyes God is watchin you through”
   Advocacy
   Rapid Response Teams
   Different ways sanctuary can be provided
   How do we have discussions in our churches with those of different points of view?

Attendance to the summit is free of charge, and a boxed lunch can be purchased at the time of registration. To register and for more details visit the conference website at www.vaumc.org. Additional resources for those who want to be in ministry to immigrants and refugees are also available at the conference website.
Open to Everyone
Mission Project
Food and Fellowship
Worship and Singing

Plus
Money Matters
Children's Study
Embracing Wholeness
What About Our Money

UWM in the USA
Missionary Conference of the USA
4 Courses

Shaw Mountain Lake
July 27 - 29
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Mission Encounter 2018

What to Bring

What to Bring

Be sure to complete Page 2 on the back

Please note all food allergies

Phone #

Name

In case of emergency, please notify:

Center:

Age Level:

Grade:

Student's Relation:

UWM Church:

UWM Officer:

UWM Number:

Check one:

Registration Close July 15th to of
except for UMW Conference and District

Online Registration is Available.

Classroom space is limited. Register early.

Registration Form
2018 Virginia Conference Mission Encounter

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Mission Studies

Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States
$10, $5.50 Kindle
By J. Ann Craig with special contributions by Deborah Bass
Instructor: Deaconess Lisa Nichols
This study tells the story of the three missionary conferences of the United Methodist Church: Alaska United Methodist Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference, and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. You will learn about the history and how each conference is founded as well as how they add to the richness of the United Methodist connection in the United States. The study explores church history alongside U.S. history in these regions, our ability to both welcome and marginalize those we consider different from ourselves, and the ways in which the church comes together to welcome and support our sisters and brothers through creative and authentic ministry.

Embracing Wholeness
$10, $5.50 Kindle
By Jessica Stonecypher
Instructors: Dr. Karen McElfish, Jaydee Hanson, Nancy Robinson
Embracing Wholeness explores the ways God has called us to live in covenantal relationship with all of creation and challenges readers to work toward stronger and healthier relationships with creation, their communities, themselves, and God. It begins with the theological and biblical foundation for our covenantal relationship with creation and moves forward into our community, our relationships, and our very selves. Each chapter explores both our personal and corporate responsibilities to those around us and addresses current issues, such as climate change, social responsibility, and justice concerns.

What About Our Money
$10, $5.50 Kindle
By Susan K. Taylor
Instructors: Rev. Dr. Stanley Hargraves, Rev. Stephen Clark, Rev. David Raash, Rev. JaeHaeng Choi
Most of us would rather talk about politics or death or pretty much anything else before we talk about money. What About Our Money? A Faith Response explores how we understand money within the context of our faith. This discussion and our own awareness of how we relate to money can actually help free us from many of the financial dilemmas we face. The focus of this study is both personal and communal. We will explore our own relationship with money, the money choices available to us, and how we individually and collectively respond to economic inequalities in light of our faith.

Christian's Study: Money Matters
$10
By Denise Snyder
Instructor: Rev. Laura Douglass
Money Matters endeavors to teach children about the concept of money, the importance of generosity, and how God intends for us to use money as an expression of love for others. Participants will develop an understanding of the origins and purpose of money, learn about giving from biblical examples; explore the concept of intentional giving and how we can use our resources to be a part of God's plan; and understand the importance of being content with what we have. Each session contains suggestions from children's literature that correspond with the central topics. These are reinforced through activities, arts-and-crafts projects, and other hands-on learning experiences.

Schedule & Fees
Mission Encounter is Friday, July 27 through Sunday July 29, 2018.
Registration: Friday 3:30 pm
Classes begin after dinner.
ME will end following lunch on Sunday.
Cost is $190
Children, ages 6-12 $95

Mission Project
Kingsway Prison Ministry Kingsway is a non-profit organization that spreads the word of Jesus Christ to inmates, ex-offenders, and their families. Kingsway offers services and programs throughout Virginia.

Items to bring:
#2 Pencils
5 x 8 Notepads: Bound on top, not from Dollar store
6 oz tubes of Toothpaste
Blank note cards

Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

Questions concerning registration?
Call Betsy Hanmer 434-736-9241

Make checks payable to Mission Encounter for the full amount
Mail registration and check to:
Betsy Hanmer
P.O. Box 206
Keysville, VA 23947

Paying by Credit Card?
Online registration is available except for UMW Conference and District officers and scholarship recipients
Tributes

We are very saddened by the passing of Edith Durrett who has been a long time member of the Richmond and Ashland United Methodist Women and served in several capacities. Edith was a teacher at Kiddie Kingdom for over 30 years. She was predeceased by her husband Rev. James Henry Durrett. We hold her sister Evelyn Durrett and their entire family in our thoughts, hearts, and prayers. We will truly miss her!

The Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher, 72, died on Feb. 8, 2018. Hatcher served the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church for 33 years. At the time of her death, she was in her seventh year as pastor of Main Street UMC Suffolk. Prior to her service there she served as district superintendent of the Peninsula District and pastor of Norfolk United Methodist Church, Galilee UMC Edwardsville and St. James UMC Hampton. She was the daughter of the late June D. and Rufus Cooper. She was predeceased by her son John Johnson. She is survived by her husband John G. Hatcher Jr.; sister, Angel Cooper; daughter-in-law, Marie Johnson; and five grandchildren. In addition to her service through the UMC, she was the founding board member of Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS).
"Women Of the Richmond District"

Richmond District Newsletter

Communication Coordinator  lloydette.diggs@gmail.com
Lloydette Diggs
8996 Midway Rd.
Henrico, VA  23229