



November 2018

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2018 United Methodist Women Press Releases and Action Alerts. Visit UnitedMethodistWomen.org for more information.

Air Pollution and Public Health

Maternal Healthcare Is a Human Right

Tell Ford to Respect Clean Car Standards

Getting More Bang for Your Book

AIDS and the Vulnerable

As We Wait for the Christ Child

United Methodist Women Heads Coalition Against Wendy's



1869—2019

THE LEGACY FUND ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Celebrate the Ways You Have Made Life Better for Women, Children and Youth

March 23, 2019, our 150th anniversary date, is a Saturday, so consider organizing a celebration of United Methodist Women that lasts for the entire weekend. Activities might include:

- a service day,
- a unit program,
- a 150th birthday party or special event,
- a retreat,
- participation in the Day of Giving (March 23).

On Sunday, plan a worship service conducted by United Methodist Women, a festive luncheon, a prayer service.

Promote the legacy of your United Methodist Women community and global work by sending a story to your local newspaper or pitching a news story to your local news station.

Participate in the conference “fun(d)-raiser”. As we approach our 150th Anniversary, we continue our monthly challenges as a way to raise awareness for the Legacy Fund and have some FUN!

1. Because we are nourished by UMW, so that we may nourish others, November's challenge is to donate \$1.50 for every side dish we served for Thanksgiving!
2. We are bound by our love for one another, the greatest gift we can share. To honor this, our challenge for December is \$1.50 for every type of bow we tie on our Christmas gifts!
3. As the New Year begins, we keep our work for UMW foremost in our plans. For January, donate \$1.50 for every resolution we make!

Remember every donation, big or small goes to carry on the work of UMW for another 150 years. Have FUN! And share the story of United Methodist Women.

P.S. Be sure to read about the money raised by a Rock-a-thon at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/getmedia/0b0c74ea-a314-4843-a4fd-5e8de6ceb94c/Rock-a-ThonPackage.pdf

Ideas from UnitedMethodistWomen.org and Karen McElfish



President

Mary Jane Rawley

What a joy to see over 200 women at our United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting at Chestnut Memorial UMC in Newport News in October! We celebrated together through our business and worshipped together during communion. It was an honor to have our national UMW President, Shannon Priddy, with us.

In January 2019, I begin another 2-year term as your President. I want to recognize those who are leaving the Executive Committee. These ladies have served our conference well and I personally appreciate each and every one of them.

Ann Shappell has been our secretary for four years. Other than take minutes for our meetings, one of Ann’s biggest jobs is to create and have printed our Annual Report book. This is a major undertaking and one requiring a lot of time in the month of December because it needs to go to the printer in early January. Ann, I have appreciated you! You have done a wonderful job as secretary.

Mary Wright has been an inspiration to us all as she has served as our Spiritual Growth Coordinator for two years. Thank you, Mary, for giving of yourself to UMW through your position. Mary’s husband, Emmett, has been so supportive by attending most of our events right along with Mary. Thank you too, Emmett, for your loving support of Mary in her position on the Mission Team.

Marilyn Blagg has served as our Social Action Coordinator for two years. Marilyn wears two hats as she is also the Dean of Mission Encounter. Being Social Action Coordinator is a big job because of all the committees that position puts you on which means many trips to the Richmond area from Marilyn’s home in Highland County. Marilyn is giving up the position of Social Action and I have appreciated the work you have done in this position. It’s been fun rooming and traveling with you over the years. I know we still have some miles to put on my van together as we travel to Mission Encounter meetings and you remain a part of the Executive Committee as Dean of Mission Encounter. Thank you, Marilyn.

Sarah Park has served four years as our Korean Language Coordinator. Thank you, Sarah, for your dedication to that position. I look forward to you remaining on the Executive Committee as part of the Nominating Committee.

District Presidents are a part of the UMW Executive Committee. This year we had four who have “retired” or completed their term. **Dian McNaught** of the Charlottesville District, **Joann McClung** of the Elizabeth River District, **Melissa White** of the York River District, and **Elise Harrison** of the Eastern Shore District. These ladies have given many, many hours of their time serving as their District’s President. I thank each and every one of you. Dian McNaught’s desire to reach out to those in need has been a blessing to our Executive Committee. Thank you, Dian, and may God continue to bless your work. Joann McClung has been around ever since I have been on the Executive Committee, I think. She has been a dedicated servant and one I knew I could count on to be there. Thank you, Joann. Melissa White has served the York River District well as their President and will be moving to the position of Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Melissa, I look forward to working with you. Thank you, Elise Harrison, for the time you served as Eastern Shore President. Elise had to take a leave of absence from her position when she took a teaching position in WV. The dedicated ladies of the ES District have kept the work going.

I have had a wonderful Mission Team for the last two years. They have all been supportive and I look forward to a great next two years!

I wish each of you a blessed Christmas with family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

With joy,

Mary Jane Rawley, President





Vice- President

Karen McElfish

It takes many people to make a successful meeting happen! My thanks to everyone who helped with the planning and preparation for this year's Annual Meeting, particularly **Jo Rawls** and her team of tireless volunteers at Chestnut Memorial UMC!

We kicked off our meeting with our traditional ice cream social Friday evening, with entertainment by Circuit Riders, an old-time country and gospel musical group from Chestnut Memorial UMC. They were delightful! We took a love offering for the band, which they plan to use to record a CD, expanding their musical ministry!

This year was a training year, giving District officers and coordinators the opportunity to share and learn from one another. Many of you indicated this was your favorite part of Annual Meeting. Thanks to the Conference officers and coordinators for making such successful training happen! For those who did not have training there was the opportunity to hear from two local mission projects, another favorite for many of you. Rev. Veronica Burrell from Una Familia on the Eastern Shore and Kathy Phillips from Early Intervention Division of Infant Services in Urbana, VA were very well received. We collected large boxes full of school supplies for Una Familia and board and bath books for Early Intervention Services. Thank you to everyone who brought donations!

During the morning and lunch, we had a lively silent auction of items donated by the Executive Team, to raise funds, and FUN, for the Legacy Fund. Many of us went home with new treasures! We raised over \$1500! Thank you to the Executive Team members who brought items for the auction, and to those who bid on them.

Our Business Meeting was a celebration of all we have done this past year. What a delight it was to have Shannon Priddy, our UMW National President as our keynote speaker! She challenged us to be passionate for UMW, to invite others to join us, and to think outside the box! Her address was the high point of the day for a majority of attendees! It was a pleasure to have her with us for the entire Annual Meeting.

Many thanks to Rev. Laura Douglass who shared her ministry of wonderful music, and to Rev. Rita Staul who led us in Communion!

As my four years of serving as your Conference Vice President draws to a close, I want to thank you all for the privilege of serving you! It has been a wonderful time! Many of you shared that your favorite thing about Annual Meeting is the fellowship. I must agree! The biggest joy of serving on the Conference team has been getting to know so many of you and working together as sisters in UMW, putting Faith, Hope and Love in Action!

Karen McElfish

Nominations



Nancy Yarborough

The Virginia Conference UMW as I understand had a wonderful Annual Meeting! First one I have missed in many years and I want all of you to know how much I missed seeing all of you. It's always like a HOMECOMING when we all get together.

God has blessed us with so much talent on the Virginia Conference that filling positions on the Mission team is an easy and pleasurable task. I wish to thank **Geraldine Sanderson** for serving all these many years! I also want to thank **Mary Wright** for her service to God's people and the Virginia Conference UMW Women. Well done, our good and faithful servants.

Thanks to all who answered the call to serve for the next two years.

We need to always remember to pray for our Conference Mission team and our churches.

Blessings
Nancy Yarborough
CON chair



Treasurer

Linda Borrer

JOYOUS CONGRATULATIONS to all the Districts/ units who reported their achievements for the reporting period of August 31, 2017 through September 1, 2018. The amount for Candle Burning was \$57,340.13 which exceeded the previous reporting year by \$5,129.48, and having the candle lit for 16 hours. This year there were 179 rainbow givers just ten below last year. Let's try for 20 more for next year. It is a wise thing to complete your rainbow giver form now before the holidays and that is one item you can mark off your "to do" list. Take it with a check for \$60 to your next unit meeting. In case you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, below is a list of those Districts which were recognized at the meeting.

Candle Burning

- Honorable Mention – Richmond
- 4th place – Rappahannock River
- 3rd place – Farmville
- 2nd place – James River
- 1st place – York River

5 & 6 Star:

- Honorable Mention – York River
- 4th place – Roanoke
- 3rd place – Farmville
- 2nd place – Winchester
- 1st place – Rappahannock River

Rainbow Givers:

- Honorable Mention – Farmville (15)
- 4th place – York River (18)
- 3rd place – Winchester (19)
- 2nd place – Elizabeth River (22)
- 1st place – Rappahannock River

Let's get excited about Mission Giving and start by emptying our treasuries and keeping only the amount needed to operate for the first quarter of 2019. In 2017 we met 90% of our pledge and I understand that there are many other charities we want to support, but let us keep our commitment to the pledge we made to United Methodist Women. Our goal is to do better than 90% for this year. Many thanks for your generous giving and your support of United Methodist Women.

"So it is with faith. If it is alone and includes no action, then it is dead." James 2:17
Blessings,
Linda Borrer,
Conference Treasurer
540-868-1497; linda.borrer1@gmail.com;
540-664-5915



Social Action

Marilyn Blagg

Conference Legislative Network - Plans for UM Day at General Assembly are progressing. Date has been changed to January 31, 2019, beginning with breakfast at Bon Air UMC. Format is the same as in previous years. There will be no restrictions on participants this year. The Conference will pay for the Social Action Coordinator from the following districts to attend UM Day at General Assembly: Alexandria, Danville, Farmville, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, York River, Richmond and Staunton. There are many interesting events planned for your visit to the General Assembly. A visit to your legislator will be arranged, there will be an orientation meeting on Wednesday evening at 7:00 at Bon Air UMC. More informative sessions are planned on Thursday following your meetings. Hope to see you there.

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy - There are several ways for us to be involved: fundraising, talking with our house and senate representatives about key issues, attend UM Day at General Assembly, receive and share the VICPP Newsletter.

Board of Church & Society - Continues to work on Peace/Nonviolence, Caretakers of God's Creation, Ending poverty, Conference committee on Religion & Race.

United Methodist Women - Issues concerning UMW are fair wages for farm workers and a living wage for all, climate justice -- reducing greenhouse gas emissions, interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline, create and strengthen state maternal mortality review -- maternal health.

I have enjoyed my time as Social Action Coordinator and working with all of you. You have been wonderful in keeping up with the goals of Social Action and sharing with our membership.

Marilyn Blagg,
Social Action Coordinator
Marilynblagg@hotmail.com
540-396-6127



Mission Education & Interpretation

Brenda NeSmith

WELCOME RENYETTA BANKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA!!

The Board of Directors of Wesley Community Service Center announced Ms. Renyetta Banks's appointment as Executive Director on September 28, 2018. Ms. Banks, a seasoned Nonprofit Management Executive, brings fifteen years of experience to Wesley in the areas of fund development, donor relations, board development and community and corporate partnerships.

Ms. Banks's employment history includes: Executive Director of the Suffolk Education Foundation; YWCA Virginia Peninsula where she increased donor-driven funding; Director of Annual Giving, Southeastern Michigan HIV/AIDS Council. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in public affairs from Wayne State University.

In her role as Executive Director, Ms. Banks will oversee the development of new service programs, planned annual giving, special events and capital campaigns. Concerning her appointment as Executive Director, Ms. Banks stated: "It is a privilege to be part of Wesley Community Service Center and to help lead such an impactful organization. I am delighted to work alongside our talented staff and dedicated Board of Directors as we provide critical services, unconditional love and hope to our community's children and families."

Wesley Community Service Center is one of nearly 100 United Methodist Women-related national mission institutions in the U.S. We especially cherish Wesley because it is OUR only national mission institution in Virginia. Founded by the Woman's Missionary Council, Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1937 as a home mission project, Wesley has provided continuous service to the Portsmouth community for more than eighty years.

Wesley serves a community where residents impacted by poverty struggle due to limited resources. Some of Wesley's human service programs include weekly food distribution, life skills classes, health and wellness programs and other essentials on a weekly basis to children, families and home-bound seniors.

Wesley derives its revenue from a variety of church and non-church sources. United Way is a large contributor. We, Virginia United Methodist Women, (local units, districts and Conference) are significant financial supporters, as well as individuals and groups from the greater United Methodist community. Our National UMW provides an annual grant which in 2017 was \$19,006.00 (2017 Grants Disclosure). Learn about Wesley at www.wesleycenterportsmouth.com and follow on Facebook @wesleycenterportsmouth. Blessings to Renyetta and staff persons at Wesley in this important mission of mercy and love for our brothers and sisters in Portsmouth!!

Brenda NeSmith,
Coordinator, Education and Interpretation



Mission Encounter



Marilyn Blagg

Mission Encounter 2019 will again be held at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake. Dates are July 26 -- 28, 2019. Classes offered will be the Radical Discipleship of Mark, UMW Anniversary Class, and a return of What About Our Money. Great instructors coming; your comments have been taken into consideration. Save the date! See you there!

Marilyn Blagg, Dean



Spiritual Growth

Mary Wright

Practicing Thankfulness

I am thankful to be a part of the resurrection story. Working daily to cultivate an attitude of gratitude.

Thanking God always for my life, my mother who took me as a small girl with her to WSCS meetings and other women who became my mentors on my spiritual journey, when we joined Cokesbury UMC. Olga Fraser who invited me in to United Methodist Women and Church Women United, Marian Gherke who invited me to Woodbridge Christian Women, and Ruth Ann Wissinger who gave me my first Max Lucado devotion book: The Gift for All People.

Ruth Ann's gift started me on a path of collecting all types of devotion and prayer books. I didn't know it in 1998 when we joined Cokesbury, but this gift became a regular part of my reading and laid the preparatory foundation that would lead me to be the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Alexandria District and later Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women. For all the women that have lifted me up and supported me over the years I am thankful. My gratitude has no boundaries.

I have held many positions in my church and served on the board, and Staff Parrish Relation Committee, and treasurer of Rising Hope UMMC, and Head of the Springfield Church Women United Unit. By far I enjoyed Spiritual Growth Coordinator the best. I am thankful for the experience. John Wesley, the Founder of the Methodist movement realized that gratitude was the response to faith in God. In "The Unity of the Divine Being", preached in Dublin April 1789, by Wesley, he said, "True religion is right temper toward God and man which includes thankfulness."

"Thank You", two words that carry a greater weight then can be imagined, it means everything when someone has extended a courtesy to you and these words are uttered and likewise when reciprocated. Just saying thank you is not enough. We must develop a life-long passion of thankfulness.

There are thirty days left in this year that I can give thanks and praise God.

"From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised." Psalm 113:

Mary V. Wright, Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Membership Nurture and Outreach

Nancy Walsh

Yes, the Young Women's Event would have been a most successful retreat for our younger friends, but the weather interfered. Camp Overlook, the venue, wisely cancelled due to Hurricane Michael, knowing that the creeks were prone to flood and power was likely to cut off. There were 28 young women registered, double that of 2017. We are very hopeful for next year, September 13-14, with The Reverend Genevieve (Gennie) Bowles pastor of Prince of Peace UMC in Manassas, as the guest speaker.

&

As of December 31, I will complete my time as your Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach. Your cooperation and support have been so very helpful. Please know that I know that those of you in leadership positions at the District level want to do your jobs in the best way possible, and I am most appreciative of those of you who have impacted my position in a positive way.

&

Please welcome Marlene Dakita, who has been elected to serve as the 2019-20 Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach, and please give her your full cooperation. She looks forward to meeting and working with you.

&

This year is fast approaching a close, but first we are to once again experience the miracle of the birth of the Christ child. Holidays are such family-centered and joyous occasions. Please remember that there are those with no family, those for whom the holidays are a lonely and sad time. Try to make room in your life to uplift the lives of those alone. Little things can make the biggest difference. Christ came for all, not just you and me.

Nancy Walsh,
Mission Coordinator for
Membership Nurture & Outreach



Julianne Rosas

In October, I was able to share with the Executive Team the Latino Clergy Caucus' current ideas and plans for Latino ministry in Virginia and how the United Methodist Women can support them in 1) advocacy, 2) incorporating Latina laity, and 3) partnering. The list I covered is:

Advocacy

How can we create a way for documentation for members of our Latino congregations? Many of our children are citizens or under DACA. What can the church do to help?

1. Encourage awareness among (non-Latin) Americans
2. Change laws to create a legal path to benefit immigrants
3. Educate/empower the Latin American immigrants. **Just Neighbors** workshops about how to respond when ICE comes to your door. **Legal Aid Justice Center** located in Charlottesville also offers Know-Your-Rights workshops.
4. Become the voice of the voiceless - listen to their concerns
5. Challenge the Virginia Conference to be intentional about Latin American ministries
6. Offer opportunities for cultures to interact. Bringing church members face to face with immigrants to experience their faith and their struggles. Share the stories where they embrace our Latin American families.
7. Update Virginia Conference website to include links to resources in Spanish (spiritual formation) and immigration organizations.

Incorporating Latina Laity leaders in the Virginia Conference

1. Marjorie Silva- Lay Leader at Latino Ministry Amigos at Messiah (Alexandria District)
2. Yvelisse Torres- Lay leader Trinity UMC and local pastor of Latino church (Danville District)
3. Heather Gomez- Work with families through school system. (Harrisonburg District)
4. Yesenia Gomez- Young teenager in training for Latino Ministries (Harrisonburg District)
5. Lori Segovia- Vice president South Eastern Jurisdiction Latino caucus, Certified Lay Speaker, screened missionary waiting to be placed by GBGM. Co-Chair CEMCA. (Baltimore-Washington Conference)

Partnering together

1. Prayer
2. Creating events with Latin American (and other ethnic minority groups) leaders. For example, Latino Clergy Caucus held dinner at Annual Conference, together 30 to 35 people from the Conference to enjoy dinner, conversation and worship with traditional music.
3. **Basic Courses** (lay servant ministries) which focus on our specific Latin American ministries.
4. Increasing visibility of the Latin Americans in the Virginia Conference.
5. Follow up with laity about what God's call is - next steps. Help them use their gifts so they can be the church to the community
6. Encourage Latin American laity to participate in Annual Conference committees. Explain the value of participating in the connectional church. Provide translation for board meetings. Encourage laity to attend Annual Conference.

The presentation I gave based on the list is at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Crm-UTe7p45xTHI3RBPv8EXJWYs7stuK/view?usp=sharing>.

For specifics, you can contact me at julie@lowerumc.com or Ileana Rosario at ileanarosario@vaumc.org

Julianne Rosas
Hispanic Language Coordinator





Lisa Nichols

Henry Fork Service Center October 2018

2018 has been a very good year for Henry Fork Service Center. Thanks to the support of churches, UMW units, Board members, and individuals, the Center has paid off the mortgage owed on the Pannel and Activity Buildings, purchased a 2017 15 passenger van, and led successful Afterschool and summer programming. We were also blessed with monies from the 100+ Women Who Care and the Smith Mountain Lake Charity Home Tour. Thank you!

The Afterschool program is going well with 63 students registered in 4 grade level classes. We have almost full classes in Pre-K – 1, 2nd & 3rd, 4th & 5th, and Middle School with one full time teacher and five part time teachers. We are still seeking a Middle School teacher and hope that the position will be filled soon. Students received a nutritious snack, then spend time in Christian Education, help with homework, and indoor and outdoor recreation. We received a Sustaining Program grant from the VA Conference UMC for Christian Education in both 2018 and 2019.

The summer went by quickly! Our students hiked and swam once a week at county and State parks, cooked using the suggested fruit for the week, learned about the fruits of the Spirit, participated in Vacation Bible School sponsored by Trinity UMC, and enjoyed hot breakfasts and lunches through the VA Department of Education Summer Feeding Program. The students also met new friends, and shared crafts, games, and academic enrichment in their grade-based classes.

Camperships allowed seven of the Henry Fork Center students to attend Children's Bible Camp east of Danville, and all of the students to participate in additional activities. Students learned how to kayak, canoe, and paddle board at Smith Mountain Lake and Fairystone State Park. Younger students enjoyed new swimming pools at Henry Fork Center and hiking around the area. 12 Middle School students spent four days in Washington, DC learning about our Capitol and our nation's history, visiting the museums and Memorials, and spending time with each other at the hotel swimming pool and on the AmTrak train.

Thank you for your continued support of Henry Fork Service Center in so many different ways. We appreciate the paper goods, birthday gifts, school supplies, and monetary gifts. We appreciate the volunteers who read and work with homework with our students, the Rocky Mount UMM who mow the campus once each month, and those who work on special projects. Please let us know if we can better interpret the ministry with the children, youth, and adults in our community, including speaking at your church or UMW unit meeting. Thank you for making our mission of "making God's love visible in the Henry Fork community" a reality.

Lisa Nichols,
Director



SAVE THE DATE

MAY 3-5, 2019

SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

“HAVING TEA with JESUS”

Retreat Leader: Reverend Dawn Marie Singleton

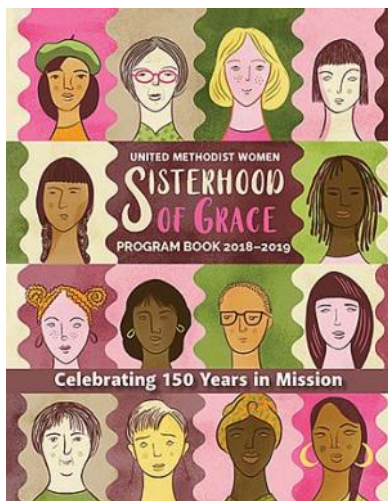
Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center

Lynchburg, VA 24503



Virginia Conference United Methodist Women 2019 Calendar

January 12, 2019	Mission Team Meeting, UM Center , Glen Allen
January 31	UM Day at the General Assembly
March 28	Mission Team Meeting, Harrisonburg
March 29-30	Executive Committee Meeting, Harrisonburg
May 3-5	Spiritual Life Retreat, Eagle Eyrie
June 1	UMW Day at Ferrum College
June 21	UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference, Roanoke
July 26-28	Mission Encounter, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
September 13-14	Young Women’s Event, Camp Overlook, Keezletown
October 5	Budget Meeting, UM Center, Glen Allen
October 24-25	Mission Team and Executive Committee Meetings, Reveille UMC, Richmond
October 26	47th Annual Meeting, Reveille UMC, Richmond



CONTACT INFORMATION



VIRGINIA CONFERENCE MISSION TEAM 2019

<p>President Mary Jane Rawley (540)828-2436 dwwalley@msn.com</p>	<p>Spiritual Growth Coordinator Melissa White (757)898-1861 mel49white@yahoo.com</p>
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<p>Secretary Dottie Thompson (757)675-8958 datgirl1019@gmail.com</p>	<p>Communications Coordinator Frances Ellis (703)476-1127 fwellis@aol.com or umwlink@gmail.com</p>
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<p>Education and Interpretation Coordinator Brenda NeSmith (804)323-9134 BrendaNesmith1@gmail.com</p>	<p>Korean Language Coordinator Sarah Park (240)328-4196 shinjds1004@gmail.com</p>
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