



THE CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Rappahannock River District United Methodist Women

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Linda Hamilton, Editor

From Your President

As I write this note, I am filled with mixed emotions. While I will be with many of you at the District UMW Harvest Prayer Breakfast and Advent Prayer Breakfast, this is the last time I will be writing something for the District UMW newsletter. Hence the mixed emotions.

First let me express my thanks to the District UMW Mission Team members. These ladies do a fantastic job in the positions they are elected to do. There is so much they do behind the scenes – it would take an entire newsletter to enumerate their accomplishments. On top of that, the 2016 Mission Team members displayed great patience to the “new kid on the block” as I went along with the activities already planned, learning why things were organized as they were, and what were their expectations of me in my job. I can never express my thanks enough for the time and dedication the District Mission Team members have put into performing their jobs over these four years. They do so with love and dedication to all of you, the members of the Rappahannock River District United Methodist Women. Their self-starting approach to their jobs made the President’s job much easier than expected. They have been a joy to work with.

Next, let me express my thanks to every one of the United Methodist Women of the Rappahannock River District. You each accepted me into this position with open arms. From the beginning, everywhere I went I was greeted with acceptance, love, and encouragement. In the beginning, I was hesitant about going to individual UMWs to provide a program. However, everyone’s enthusiastic welcome made me more eager than I expected to feel when asked to come & do programs for individual units. These opportunities have been a great blessing to me. I am more grateful than I can express for the love, cards, and prayers from all of you when I was going through my surgery last November and radiation this past winter. I was wrapped in a blanket of support and encouragement that is beyond measure and I will be eternally grateful for it.

In addition, I want to thank the District Office. Our past District Superintendent, Ted Smith, is a great supporter of United Methodist Women as is our current DS, Charles Bates. Ted offered sound counsel when I talked with him, as has Charles. I appreciate the opportunity to work with them. Thanks also to Lynn Manley, the District Office Manager. Lynn has made countless copies of bulletins, forms, reports, etc. for our District UMW Annual meetings and

other meetings. She has offered help and advice with many aspects of the job. This support has been an immense help.

The other support system that I have gratefully leaned on is that of all the past presidents. They were patient when I called and asked “How did you do”, “What do you think of”, “Did you ever”, etc. Their various perspectives allowed me to approach problem solving with ideas and perspectives that I would not have come up with on my own. Special thanks to Charlotte Edge, who put together a program on the history of United Methodist Women for a local unit, when I was first asked to do so and felt woefully inadequate to do the job! Special thanks, also, to Debbie Dietrich and Charlotte Stewart for performing my job at the 2018 Advent Prayer Breakfast as I recovered from my surgery.

It has been my privilege to represent you at various Conference UMW events, District UMC events, and Conference UMC events. I am so proud of all the hard work done by the Rappahannock River District United Methodist Women in mission for women, children, and youth. Lucky, lucky me to be your face at these events! Thanks for going forward and keeping up all your hard work!

The best part? I’m not going anywhere! I’ll still see you at District and Conference UMW events. Lucky me! Until then, to quote Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, “Happy trails to you, ‘til we meet again.”

Well done, good and faithful servants.
With my deepest regards,

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From Your Vice President

Greetings UMW Sisters!!

I hope all of you are prepared for this cooler weather. I have a few friends who love cold weather but trust me, I am not one of them. I already feel like I want to hibernate until April. But I confess, this time of year I do enjoy our fire-pit on the patio, warm tea, and soup!

Our Harvest Prayer Breakfast is right around the corner!! **Saturday, November 2, 2019. Registration is at 8:30, Breakfast at 9:30am** at Afton UMC. Don’t forget to bring your favorite breakfast dish, or your favorite comfort food will also work. Many of you have not submitted your registration forms, but no worries, since each unit is bringing food, please feel free to grab a last-minute friend, they don’t have to be UMW to attend. Wouldn’t it be fabulous to have an event suddenly be standing room only? What a blessing that would be. Email me to let me know your bringing a friend or two. There’s always room in God’s house. (Text me if you like, but just remember to let me know who you are if you text me. My number is below.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The RRD UMW Advent Prayer Breakfast is Saturday **December 7, 2019 at Register Chapel – Stafford.** Our guest speaker will be Karen Sloop! A copy of the registration form is attached to this newsletter. (Ladies!! We don’t have to cook for this one!)

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From Your Treasurer

Hello RRD UMW Sisters!

I am so thankful to be a part of the District Team and to be your treasurer. The giving of the Rappahannock River District Units is very inspiring! I hope you are as inspired by the giving as I am and that you will continue with your generosity so that we will meet our Conference Pledge for 2019 of \$28,000.00. Last remittance for 2019 is due December 10th.

Year to date RRD has turned into the Virginia Conference:

Pledge --\$24,060.69 This number includes all five channels of giving that go to the pledge. The five channels of giving are General Pledge, World Thank, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and Special Mission Recognition. This number also includes the sixth channel of giving to the pledge which is Candle Burning.

Designated Giving--\$2,561.56 There are so many designated places you all have sent money to help. Prayer and Self Denial, A brighter Future for Children and Youth, Wesley Community Service Center, Henry Fork Center, Ferrum College, Kits for Conference and West View on the James are just a few examples of designated giving.

Legacy Fund-\$1340.14

If you ever have a question about the different channels of giving, how remittance forms work, or where does the money go; please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to speak with

you, sit down with you, or do a program for your unit.

In this Fall season may you enjoy the splendor of the colors, the harvest, and time with friends and family. May you also celebrate your generosity which is making a difference in the lives of women and children throughout the World. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Harvest Prayer Breakfast! and also the Advent Prayer Breakfast! Don't forget – Advent Prayer Breakfast registration forms are due to me November 16th!

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From Your Social Action Coordinator

One of the great thoughts about Social Action is that everyone can and should be involved. Can and should; these two words are powerful in that they require a response. Social implies communal activity and that is what we are in the church and in our various UMW's units. Now I'm not saying that one must do everything but one must do something. One must feel compelled to want to follow the lead that Jesus gave us in the New Testament about serving the various ones who have needs. John Wesley certainly did his part for social action during the early forming of the church with his reform work and views in the areas of slavery, aid to the poor, education, and prison reform.

The United Methodist Women have always been a leader of action within the wider church as exemplified through the history of the church. All this being said, the Rappahannock River District Women are facing challenging times

and faithfully need to respond, as has been the trend in this district.

I am just beginning this position and have much to learn but you will find that I am compassionate about response to injustices. I am on the Conference Board of Church & Society and already involved to a certain extent with some of the Social Action protocols. My particular subcommittee is Caring for God's Creation or Caretakers for short. I am interested in knowing which churches are Green Churches in this district and what you are doing to maintain that status. If you go on the conference website, you will find more information about the Green Church Initiative. I would like to form a group of green churches into a hub that can collaborate and share their ideas with the other churches on the district. Right now Climate Justice is a big issue and maybe we can help in a small way by lending our voice to the conversation.

Some other areas we **can and should** be involved in are economic inequalities, healthcare, criminalization of communities of color, mass incarceration, racial injustice, and immigration. There is so much opportunity every day to make a difference and we must be self-aware and acknowledge that each of us can make a difference with a response.

Our voice can be heard with our vote. So, don't forget to go to the polls during the upcoming elections. If you don't have a ride, be proactive and give someone a call to take you.

I would remind everyone that United Methodist Day at the General Assembly is January 30, 2020. This day and is a great opportunity to participate in

advocacy and meeting your legislators. This is a joint sponsorship activity by the Virginia Conference Board of Church & Society and the Virginia United Methodist Women.

I leave you with this quote that is in a book I'm teaching called *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass: "Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good."—Maya Angelou

Blessings,

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From Your Spiritual Growth Development Coordinator

Dear UMW Sisters,

"How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears." 2 Samuel 7:22

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Recently, I have thought a lot about faith. I guess it's because of circumstances that I find myself in through my daily walk. I know that faith is not something that is seen, but something felt and I've felt it ever so strongly over the last few months and the last couple of years. Each day of our journey should be centered in faith and each and every day I ask God to give me strength to face the tasks that

are before me. I pray this prayer for our local units as well.

I know that the United Methodist Women are centered in faith. Our faithful prayers and expectant answer to God to lead someone to accept the call to be the RRD President, thank you Lord for leading Penny Kelly to answer the call. I believe that in faith we ask for the things we need. God answers not because he doesn't know what we need already but the mere fact that we ask is an acknowledgment that we trust in the One who can provide. While I have yet to meet Penny, I so look forward to working with her as she shares the gift of leadership to our district. Let's keep her in daily prayer. I pray for each and every woman of the Rappahannock River District United Methodist Women. Our faithful service to Him will always bring blessings to ALL we are called to serve.

Praise be to God! His presence was ever with us at our Annual Conference in September. You ladies are such a blessing!

As we near the end of 2019, thank you to each and every unit, our out-going president JM for her leadership and dedication and the entire Mission team. We covet your prayers.

In God's love,

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Our prayers answered

Nominations Committee

I know that you rejoice with me that God has led Penny Kelly to feel the call to be the next President of the RRD UMW. For those of you who have not yet met Penny, she is new to Virginia. An introduction from Penny is included in this newsletter to provide some background information about her. Penny began attending UMW meetings shortly after moving to Virginia. She joined Lebanon UMC on October 6th. Since then, she has been elected the next president of the RRD UMW by vote of the RRD UMW Mission Team.

Why, you wonder, was she not a nominee at the September 28th Annual Meeting? Here is the reason. A person elected as President of the RRD UMW must be a member of a church in the Rappahannock River District. Until Penny joined at UMC in the RRD, she could not be considered or approached as a candidate for the RRD UMW President position. Once she officially joined Lebanon UMC, she became eligible to be considered & elected as the President of the RRD UMW.

When the Nominating Committee learned that Penny was joining a church in the RRD, she was contacted about her interest in being the next RRD UMW president. Penny immediately expressed an interest and a belief that she is being called by God to this position. The Nominating Committee is very pleased to announce that this position has been filled for the 2020-2021 term and thank you for welcoming Penny.

To recap, the RRD UMW elections for 2020-2021 are:

President – Penny Kelly (2020-2021)
Social Action Coordinator – Suzanne Shrader (2020-2021)
Communications Coordinator, Annual Handbook – Judy Schraeder (2020-2021)

Karen Robison
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Hello Ladies!

My name is Penny Kelly and I am very excited to be the new Rappahannock River District UMW President for 2020! I am a recent transplant from Missouri as well as being newly married. I have two sons, two daughters-in-love, and four grandchildren. My husband, Richard, has two sons, one daughter-in-love and four grandchildren.

I have been involved in UMW in Missouri since 1997. God has put

missions in my heart as well as a desire to see women healed of emotional wounds. I have recently returned from a nine and a half month tour through 25 states with the African Children's Choir. Truly a life changing experience! The African Children's Choir is a Christian organization where around 18 children between the ages of 7 and 10 come from Africa to sing, dance and perform, showing the dignity and joy of the African child. Through sponsorship from the tour, the children will be able to go back to Africa and complete their education all the way through college.

My experience was more than I ever expected, with being an "Auntie" to 10 girls and 8 boys, helping them with schooling, Christian discipleship, general guidance and giving them lots of love. The biggest blessing is the lifelong relationships that were built with the children, other chaperones, and the host families. So thankful to God for the opportunity.

I am so looking forward to seeing the hope and future God has for our UMW women as well as the body of Christ who are whole and obedient to Him. God's grace and mercy to you.

Penny Kelly
RRD UMW President (2020-2021)

Kilmarnock United Methodist Women (KUMW)

Kilmarnock UMW Going Bananas!

On Tuesday, September 10, KUMW members went bananas by creating cheerful and inspiring messages for the residents of Commonwealth Senior Living in Kilmarnock. Members wrote

over 15 pounds of inspirational and loving banana messages to brighten the day for others. This is part of our annual theme to "Be Kind" and it is the kind of cheer that brings a smile to residents' faces, especially the love messages.

Shown are some, but not all, of the members who participated in this "appealing" activity.



from left to right, 1st row seated, are MJ Conway, Patti Grace and Pastor Penny Cory
Second row, Geanie Henley, Bev Miller, Kathee Cernicky, Jo Manson, Judy Warner, Georjie Gerhart, and Betty Riley. Not shown Janine Snader and Judy Neal.

Guest Speaker Peg Arnold Returns to KUMC

On Tuesday October 1, KUMW hosted an inspirational program presented by national speaker and author Peg Arnold at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church. Over 65 attendees from local churches attended the quiche brunch followed by a program called "Distracted Hearts, Devoted Hearts." Ms. Arnold's Wonder of Women Ministry is a unique blend of drama and Biblical teachings. "Peg's dramatic portrayal of Mary and Martha was touching and inspiring," said Jo Manson, KUMW President. "Her drama brought these women to life and provided a fresh perspective on the challenges women face today to

balance the demands of life with their desire to serve the Lord."

Peg's engaging ministry has touched hearts and spirits at women's events for more than 20 years. She previously spoke to KUMC in 2017. Peg also had a book signing after the event for her most recent publication, "Distracted Hearts."



Shown from left to right: Pastor Penny Cory, KUMW Vice President Sally McGrath, Peg Arnold, Geanie Henley, and KUMW President Jo Manson



UPCOMING EVENTS – DON'T FORGET!

- November 2 RRD UMW Harvest Prayer Breakfast
Host: Afton UMW
Leader: Barbara Jacobs
- December 7 RRD UMW Advent Prayer Breakfast
Host: Regester Chapel UMW
Leader: Karen Sloop





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***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.***