



Mission Tapestry

Arlington District United Methodist Women

Vol. XLI, No. II

April 2020

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.

The Mission Tapestry is a publication of the Arlington District United Methodist Women. Its goal is to keep units at the local/ congregation level informed about opportunities for living out our PURPOSE. It is published quarterly—January, April, July, and October.

Articles for publication are welcome and should be directed to ArlingtonDistrictUMW@gmail.com by the 1st of the publication month.

Check out our website at www.ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org

District President's Message

I truly hope all of you are well and practicing physical distancing. **It's my opinion that we can still be "social," using computers, Facebook, other media and the tried and true telephone.** We may not have a cell phone, but we all have some kind of phone, so use it. Women were using phones to **"network" long before what that word means today.** It's easy to feel isolated at this time because we are all staying at home and **that's what we should be doing to keep everyone safe.** So, call the women in your circle, unit or someone you know who could use **a lift, even if you don't want to.** Hearing a kind voice will lift their spirits and yours. Remember last year when we sent cards to Missionaries at the 150th Birthday **Bash? Let's do it again! If you don't have a Prayer Calendar or know someone who does, e-mail me or call.** I will give you one, remember it counts on the Living into Our Purpose form. We are **social animals, so let's connect in a personal way. You've got the time, reach out in a way that's comfortable for you.** You will both feel better for it.

We cancelled the Spring Prayer Breakfast in March, as most of you know. So far, the conference Spiritual Life Retreat in May, UMW Day at Ferrum College in

June, and Mission Encounter in July have also been cancelled. I am hoping we will have our Potluck and Vespers event, June 6th, at Clarendon UMC. I will keep you updated by email and the website.

So much is changing from day to day. It seems things are up in the **air; we don't know what is happening or what will come next.** We **usually don't know what tomorrow will bring** and the last few weeks have shown us how true that is. These are the times that try our faith. We know that God is our rock and Christ is our salvation. We know that He loves us and will **be with us always. Let's put our trust in him, pray for each other and take it one day at a time.**

"God Loves each of us as if there were only one of us." Augustine of Hippo

Doris Douglass
President
Arlington District UMW



Secretary

Janet Keener

Dear UMW Sisters,

Happy Easter!



This is how I want to greet you for this issue. Today, I hope and pray that each of you and your families are well.

March has definitely been a very interesting month with the COVID-19 situation! We have learned a new way of living with an expanded vocabulary - social distancing, live streaming, telecommuting, home schooling. The United Methodist Church has been encouraging members to RETHINK Church for several years. It has currently become our new reality. With technology, pastors have been able to continue worship services by online worship. Wesley UMC even accomplished a mission project - collecting for The Lamb Center!

Let us continue to be connected by praying for healing and peace of mind for our families and leaders - church, community, nation, and world. We can do this by praying daily at Noon the prayer from Bishop Lewis (see below). Praise the Lord for his Love, Faith, Hope, Healing, Forgiveness, and so much more!

In Christian Love,

Janet

janet_keener@cox.net



Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

Treasurer

Beth Meserve

Things have certainly changed since the last Tapestry came out! We are truly in a strange new world. Many events have been cancelled, including the Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event which was to be held in April. Most local churches and UMW units have cancelled local events.

Don't forget that there are people in need around us. Take time to reach out to those you know and make sure they are safe. Now more than ever we need to take care of our community.

There are a few notes from our Conference Treasurer, Linda Borrer. We now have 89 National Mission Institutions (community centers) in 34 states and Puerto Rico of which Wesley Community Service Center (WCSC) in Portsmouth, VA is one of those. We have only one National Mission Institution. Funds for Wesley Community Center can be sent to me and will be sent directly to the Center through the Virginia Conference.

UMCOR Funds - Locals and Districts are encouraged to send funds directly to UMCOR with the Advance #. The Conference no longer sends funds to UMCOR, as recommended by National.

I'm sad to report that the person who oversaw our cancelled stamp program, Mike Davis, has passed. A new volunteer has been located. Please continue to collect but hold your cancelled stamps until we can meet again.

It's not too early to think about becoming a Rainbow Giver. All units with a Rainbow Giver are automatically 5-Star Units and will be recognized at our District Annual Meeting. The form is available on our website, <http://www.arlingtondistrictumw.org/forms.html> and in this newsletter.

Here are the accomplishments of the Arlington District for the period Sep 1, 2018 - Aug 30, 2019.

- Candle Burning - \$1,361.00
 - 5-Star Units – 1
 - 6-Star Units – 6
(39% Participation –18 units)
- Rainbow Givers
Martha Bell
Doris Douglass
Brenda Goff
Florence Jenkins
Sharon Jenkins
Karen McElfish
Beth Meserve
Mary Alyce Phipps
Connie Shrader
Elizabeth Wray

Please remember that if you have any questions, feel free to ask. I'm here to help you any way I can. May God bless you all as we navigate through these uncharted waters.

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beth.meserve@gmail.com
703-404-0542

Treasurer

Beth Meserve

STAMPS FOR MISSION Arlington District

Some of you may not know that we collect postage stamps. The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women collects stamps and sells them to raise money for Mission Giving. We have been doing this for over 32 years. Those familiar with the program will notice a few changes to how we have done it in the past.



1. All stamps cancelled or uncanceled, except bulk mail, are accepted.
2. Foreign stamps and old stamps are great, and sometimes more valuable.
3. You can turn in the whole envelope or cut stamps off leaving at least ¼-inch border around the stamp. You do not need to trim to ¼ inch
4. If you have postcards, turn in the whole card; do not cut or tear stamp off card
5. Leave rows of stamps intact.

You can bring them to any District UMW event and give them to Dana Connor, our **Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator**. If you don't see Dana, any of the District Officers can take them for you.

Try getting your whole congregation involved. Advertise in your church newsletters and bulletins. Put a collection box or basket in a place well-traveled so it is easy to find.

Continue to save stamps and give it a try if you haven't done it before.

Treasurer

Beth Meserve

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UMW RAINBOW WOMAN

Yes, YOU can become a RAINBOW WOMAN!

Have you thought about you personally giving to all five channels of giving?

A Rainbow Women gives to all five channels of giving:
 \$40 to give someone special a Special Mission Recognition Pin
 \$ 5 Pledge to Mission
 \$ 5 Gift to Mission
 \$ 5 Gift in Memory
 \$ 5 World Thank Offering
 \$60 Total



Your \$60 RAINBOW WOMAN offering must specify that you are giving to the above five channels and designate who you want your pin to go to, who your Gift in Memory is for and that you are giving that \$60 for a Rainbow Woman. If you simply give \$60 to your unit treasurer, you will not be a Rainbow Woman. You must designate that it is for Rainbow Woman giving.

1. Special Mission Recognition Pin in ___ Honor or ___ Memory of:

 (Please check appropriate box) (Name of person being honored or memorialized)

Send pin to: (Name) _____
 (Address) _____

2. Pledge to Mission

3. Gift to Mission Card – Which card to send? _____
 (Thank You, Baby, Birthday, In the Service of Christ, etc.)
 Send card to: (Name) _____
 (Address) _____

4. Gift in Memory: In Memory of:

 (Name of person in whose memory the gift is made)
 Send card to: (Name) _____
 (Address) _____

5. World Thank Offering

Given by (Rainbow Woman's Name) _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 District: _____

All components must be submitted to your Unit Treasurer at one time. We suggest that this Rainbow Woman gift be given in addition to your regular pledge to mission.

If you have any questions about becoming a Rainbow Woman, please contact:
 District Treasurer: Beth Meserve, 507 N Brighton Ct., Sterling, VA 20164; 703-404-0542
 Email: beth.meserve@gmail.com

Social Action

Cheryl Moore

Social Action Doesn't Stop

As I write this article in the thick of the COVID-19 outbreak, this pandemic has certainly changed **my daily routine. Rather than dashing to the grocery store for a few items, I'm carefully writing a list and hoping that a once-weekly trip will suffice. Instead of going to my usual Jazzercise workout, I'm taking walks around the neighborhood, stepping into the street to maintain the six-foot social distance when I pass someone on the sidewalk. My neighborhood is quiet with no children playing football in the yard at the house on the corner. Lunch with friends, my book group meeting, church committees -- even worship -- have all been transformed into online experiences. I'm sure we all share similar feelings of uncertainty, isolation, and fear of what lies ahead.**

Fortunately, none of my immediate family or friends have become sick with the virus. Though some (including my own daughter) have lost jobs, many are able to telework or are retired, so staying home is not that difficult. But hourly wage workers who still have jobs – retail and restaurant workers, delivery drivers, Metro employees, to name just a few – face a difficult choice every day. Do they go into work, risking their health and the health of their families, or stay home and forego their pay, risking their economic livelihood?

While COVID-19 has brought this dilemma into the forefront, we feel some reassurance that this is a temporary situation. We hope and pray that the virus eventually will run its course, and effective treatments and vaccines will be developed. Life will return to normal – or at least a new normal.

Unfortunately, even on the other side of the pandemic, most low-income workers who earn an hourly **wage will still face the dilemma of whether to go to work when they are sick. They can't afford to stay home when they are not getting paid, so they go to work in restaurants, nursing homes, grocery stores, daycare facilities – all places where they are in direct contact with the public.**

As you know, during the past session of the Virginia General Assembly, lawmakers brought forward bills that would require employers with 15 or more employees to provide paid sick leave for their employees. Virginia UMW members, including our Conference Social Action Coordinator Karen McElfish, worked closely with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) to urge passage of these bills. At United Methodist Day at the General Assembly, which took place in late January, those of us in attendance met with our legislators and asked them for their support. Sadly, while the House of Delegates passed their version of the bill, the Senate bill died in committee, without a vote on the floor.

While our focus today may be on our own health and the health of our family and friends, I hope that UMW members in Virginia will commit to supporting our low-income neighbors by continuing to advocate for Paid Sick Days when proposed legislation comes back up before the General Assembly in **2021. And we don't need to wait until next year.**

“We need to meet with our Delegates and Senators to thank those who supported it this past session, and to encourage those who did not to get on board,” says Karen McElfish. “We need to ensure that no one is compelled to go to work sick.” (While in-person meetings aren't possible right now, you can still call or send an email.)

There will no doubt be additional ways to participate in this effort as we go forward. Watch VICPP's website and emails for calls to action. I also hope you'll join me in next year's United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. It's an educational and informative experience and one where our voices can truly be heard.

Social Action

Cheryl Moore

I hope to see you soon, when we are allowed to gather again as United Methodist Women. In the meantime, remember that faith, hope, and love in action will prevail as we support one another and **all of God's children through these difficult times.**

To find your local legislators, go to <https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/>.

To learn more about the VICPP and sign up for Action Alerts, go to <https://www.viriniainterfaithcenter.org/get-involved/>.

For suggestions about other ways to get involved, see

<https://www.viriniainterfaithcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Social-action-while-social-distancing.pdf>

Cheryl Moore

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703-981-9879.



Spiritual Growth

Phyllis Kirkman

Phyllis had a very interesting Bible quiz that I will try to include next quarter. Instead, I am taking the liberty to include notecards I found, while cleaning out, describing “Why I Am Passionate About UMW”. Frances

- * I love the fellowship and ways in which everyone can share.
- * UMW is a wonderful fellowship of women together who worship God and want to devote their time and resources to help people around the world.
- * The wonderful friendships formed as well as the feeling of being part of a world-wide mission to improve the lives of women and children everywhere.
- * Supportive sisterhood, spiritual studies, missions!
- * When I was 21, getting married, and moving 3000 miles from home, my mother told me to join the UMW. She said, “You will have life-long friends!” I followed her advice and 40 years later, still love going to meetings and doing service projects with these special women.
- * I am passionate about the role UMW has in promoting the work of social justice in our congregation and community.
- * Support and fellowship from the women strengthens me, and more insight into social issues.
- * The fellowship of various women and being a part of the connectional mission work.
- * The fellowship! Being with women who love and accept me and welcome my gifts.
- * Getting to know women on an individual basis. Fellowship on District level that wouldn’t happen without UMW. The joy of the Reading Program.
- * UMW strengthens my faith in God, supports health and happiness, and brings deep joy and spirit through music in my life.
- * I have received the gift of friendship from women of all generations, and I have witnessed the commitment of women to missions that care for and reach out to women, youth, and children all over the world.
- * UMW is for all women of faith—all colors, shapes, sizes, and languages.
- * UMW gives me the chance to build bonds of love and friendship with other women as we learn about **God’s love and work together on mission** projects.
- * The community of women that works for women around the world.
- * I am moved by the way UMW reaches out to meet the needs of the disadvantaged.
- * Meeting and reuniting with women of other churches.
- * The fellowship of women working together for the benefit of God and church.
- * Fellowship with the women of our church, come together to do for others, support our church family.
- * I love UMW because they are passionate about missions. I have a heart for missions and love belonging to a group where I can take part in something I love.
- * Sisterhood, unity, diversity.
- * The fellowship and the feeling of “family”, as well as learning about what UMW are doing at home and in the world via books and magazines.
- * The fellowship with friends. Tradition.
- * The purpose is the support of mission around the world and the fellowship of other women.
- * I love sharing with and learning from other women who love God and who demonstrate that love to others in all they do every day. UMW inspires me!
- * I love that UMW looks at the whole world and makes us focus beyond ourselves. I love that this organization has been working to improve the lives of women and children for more than 100 years and continues this important work.
- * Based on the mission Radical Welcome. Friendship. Leadership. Stewardship. Learning.
- * UMW has a wonderful group of women who give their time and energy to help others.

Spiritual Growth

Phyllis Kirkman

- * UMW brings me closer to other spiritual women; helps me to be more involved with the church; challenges me to do more for others through missions and learn more about the plight of others.
- * UMW is a vehicle to communicate special issues concerning women and children. UMW is an excellent organization for networking, learning and sharing with all women. An opportunity to grow.
- * I love feeling that I can support people in mission who help women and children in the US and around the world.
- * Time to grow with friends. Time to serve my church and my God. Learn more about my community and how I can serve better and represent my church throughout the community.
- * UMW focuses on serving women and children, meeting their needs both physical and spiritual.
- * UMW creates a place for women to fellowship and share our God-given ability to mother through missions.

You can see how all of these tie-in to and follow the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

Our Purpose is adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as the official mission statement of United Methodist Women.

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.

Out of the Purpose are four mission foci that relate to the mission initiatives and priorities of United Methodist Women.

1. To be a community of women
2. To know God
3. To develop a creative and supportive fellowship
4. To expand concepts of mission

Remember in this quiet, alone time how much your UMW sisters are passionate about the supportive fellowship and check in regularly with each other.

Finding Peace

Eternal God grant us peace in this anxious world. May we trust in you with all our hearts, and may you bring us insight and refreshment. Help us to practice Christian acceptance of the things we cannot change and give us the courage to take action when we are called to act. Your ways are ways of righteousness, justice, and equity. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

-From *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* leader's guide, by Olivia DiAgostino, United Methodist Women, p. 20

Program Resources

Phyllis Kirkman

Since the libraries are closed and we may be finding some extra time on our hands, this is a great time to try out the lending library. Visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram> for lists of book titles by year.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LENDING LIBRARY RULES FOR BORROWERS

1. Borrow 5 books for a 6-week period. Please return promptly so that others may have a chance to read the books.
2. Pay the postage to and from the Lending Library. Due to Postal Regulations concerning Media Mail you will need to make two mailings when returning your books. Mail books in one envelope and another envelope containing the postage due amount from books being mailed. Make checks payable to Jeanette Yoh. **DO NOT SEND MONEY IN SAME ENVELOPE AS BOOKS. PLEASE DO NOT SEND STAMPS.**
3. When returning books, mark package Media Mail and return to the address below.
4. If it is necessary to keep a book past the due date, please call or email and the due date will be extended for 1 month.
5. In event a book is lost, the person requesting the book is responsible for cost of replacing it.
6. Books may be ordered using the Lending Library Request Form or by Email: Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com, giving your name, address, phone #, church and district.

Please note if you do not want substitutes.

Send all orders to any of these:
Phone: (757) 833-8134 (h)
(757) 871-1459 (c)
Email: Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com

Jeanette Yoh
Secretary of Program Resources
Virginia Conference
961 Edgewater Drive
Newport News, VA 23602

Reading Program Plans

Plan I

Read 5 books each year.
Read 1 book from each category.
Select books from the 2015-2020 reading list, **including youth and children's books**, if not included in previous reports.
Regularly read *RESPONSE* Magazine

Select books from the 2015-2020 **reading list (including youth and children's books)** if not included in previous reports.
Regularly read *RESPONSE*

Plan II

Read 10 books each year.
Read 2 books from each category.
Select books from the 2015-2020 reading list, **including youth and children's books**, if not included in previous report.
Regularly read *RESPONSE*

Plan IV

Read 20 books each year.
Read 10 books with 2 from each of the categories, and 10 additional books from any category.
Select books from the 2015-2020 reading list, **including youth and children's books**, if not included in previous reports.
Regularly read *RESPONSE*.

Plan III

Read 15 books each year.
Read 10 books with 2 from each of the 5 different categories.
Read 5 additional books from any category.

BONUS BOOKS: Books identified as Bonus Books count as two, either as two in the same category or as one book in two different categories, Social Action or Education for Mission.

Program Resources

Phyllis Kirkman

CONFERENCE UMW LENDING LIBRARY REQUEST FORM

Ordered by:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ email: _____

_____ Substitute Books _____

Church: _____ Don't substitute _____

Social Action

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Nurturing for Community

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Spiritual Growth

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Education for Mission

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Leadership Development

Choice 1: _____

Choice 2: _____

Choice 3: _____

Send all orders to:

Virginia Conference UMW Lending Library
Jeanette Yoh, Secretary of Program Resources
961 Edgewater Dr.
Newport News, VA 23602

Make postage checks to: Jeanette Yoh

Email: Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com
Phone: (757) 833-8134 (h)
(757) 871-1459 (c)



Arlington District United Methodist Women 2020 Calendar

PURPOSE
of the United
Methodist Women

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.

Event	Date
VA Conference Spiritual Life Retreat @ Smith Mountain Lake	Cancelled
UMW Day at Ferrum College	Cancelled
Arlington District Pot Luck & Vespers @ Clarendon UMC	June 6 at 5 pm
Bi-District Day Apart @ Dumfries UMC	July 18
VA Conference Mission Encounter @ Smith Mountain Lake	Cancelled
VA Conference Young Women's Event @ Camp Overlook	September 11-12
Arlington District Annual Meeting @ Friendship UMC	September 26 at 9 am
VA Conference 48th Annual Meeting @ Smith Mountain Lake	October 24
Arlington District Mini Mission @ tbd	November 14 at 9 am

Arlington District United Methodist Women Officers for 2020

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Doris Douglass
7213 Vellex Lane
Annandale, VA 22003
703-642-0661
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Vice President

Still vacant at this time

Secretary

Janet Keener
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Vienna, VA 22182-3428
703-281-7685
Janet_Keener@cox.net

Treasurer

Beth Meserve
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MISSION COORDINATORS

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Social Action

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Membership Nurture and Outreach

Still vacant at this time

Spiritual Growth

Phyllis Kirkman
8234 Winder St
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703-281-1305
umwspirit@gmail.com

Secretary for Program Resources

Phyllis Kirkman
8234 Winder St
Vienna, VA 22180-6962
703-281-1305
umwspirit@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Still vacant at this time

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Communications/Editor of the Tapestry

Frances Ellis
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703-476-1127
FWEllis@aol.com or
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For general information about Arlington District UMW, e-mail
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