



# Mission Tapestry

Arlington District United Methodist Women

Vol. XLII, No. 1

January 2021

## 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](mailto:ArlingtonDistrictUMW@gmail.com) by the 1st of the publication month.

Check out our website at [www.ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org](http://www.ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org)

## District President's Message

Happy New Year Everyone,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year. With the hope that comes from having the vaccines, we do have a light ahead. We still need to do what we have been doing all along, but I feel optimistic that we are on the way. Let us pray for things to keep moving in the right direction.

I am excited to let you know that Debby Fairweather from Mt. Olivet is joining our 2021 District Team as Treasurer. We are happy to welcome her and know she will do a great job. I am also happy to tell you that Beth Meserve is moving from Treasurer to Vice. President. I know she will do a great job as well.

A reminder that we still have positions open on the District Team. They are Education and Interpretation, Membership Nurture and Outreach, and Nominations. If you feel led to any of these positions, we would welcome you to join our team at any time.

We have had good success using Zoom for our District meetings and will continue to do so. Training Day, now called District Day, will be January 23rd at 9:15 am. You need to register so we can send you the link. Remember everything you would pick up at the meeting, the Program Book, District Handbook, Reading Program list, Conference and District Officer lists, Officer Packets and so on?

Needless to say, we can't do that this year. We are asking each unit to order the Program Book online from the Mission Resource Center and the District will reimburse you for it. Send the bill to Debby Fairweather, our treasurer, and she will reimburse you. The District Handbook will be emailed to each unit president and posted on the Arlington District website. This way it will be available to all our members. Officer packets will be emailed to the unit officers from the District Officer holding the same position. If a position is open, the packet will be sent to the unit president. The Reading Program is on the national website. We plan on including most of the other handouts you usually pick up in this issue of the Tapestry, so be sure to get some paper for the printer.

Be sure to put the Spring Prayer event on your calendar, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9:30, via Zoom. Our speaker is Michelle Holms Chaney, Bi-District Church Revitalization & Leadership Development Coordinator.

Everyone take good care of yourselves.  
Doris Douglass, President  
Arlington District UMW



Secretary

Janet Keener



Dear UMW Sisters in Christ,



Finally, it is 2021! We pray for a much-improved future from the past year. One of my favorite quotes I read on Facebook just before the New Year was “At 12:01 am on January 1, for the first time ever Hindsight will actually be 2020.”

We have learned to worship, share Bible study, and meet in new ways -- especially via ZOOM. We have changed plans and avoided traveling for COVID-19 and weather. The Bible verses shared here **were read for my brother's** *Celebration of Life*. John 3:16 and Romans 8:28 remind us that God offers us purpose, peace, and everlasting life for our future. Meanwhile, we can always celebrate the *Fruit of the Spirit* with the gifts of Love, Joy, Kindness, Goodness, plus much more with family and friends as given in Galatians 5:22-23.

In planning your future with the Arlington District UMW, be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming *District Day* happening *Saturday, January 23, 2021* via ZOOM at 9:30 a.m. and the *Spring Prayer Event* on *Saturday, March 20, 2021*. Details are forthcoming as they are finalized.

Until next time, I wish you **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!** Enjoy sharing safely with your family and friends.

For God so *loved*  
that He *Gave* the world,  
His only  
begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in Him  
should not perish but have  
*Everlasting*  
- John 3:16 *life.*

God Bless,  
Janet  
janet\_keener@cox.net

And we know that in all things  
*God works for the good*  
of those who love Him,  
*who have been called*  
according to *His purpose.*

Romans 8:28

# Treasurer

Beth Meserve

**Happy New Year! A lot of us are very happy to say “good-bye” to 2020. Let us pray that 2021 is a better year for everyone.**

This will be my last column as District Treasurer. Beginning in January 2021, I will be assuming the position of Vice-President, which has been vacant for several years. Please pray for me as I learn my new role for our United Methodist Women.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to our new District Treasurer, Debby Fairweather. She is a member of Mount Olivet United Methodist Church. Her email address is [RDFairweather@verizon.net](mailto:RDFairweather@verizon.net) and her phone number is 703-237-9324.

I will be working with her as she learns the ropes of her new position. I know she will catch on quickly and do a great job for all of you.

This year, instead of our normal Training Day, we are having a District Day! Virtually, of course. It is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2021. It will be structured differently this year, so look for information about the meeting. There will be training included for those who are officers. Because Debby is new to the position, I will be conducting the training for Treasurers this year.

Since we will not be meeting in person, I will be emailing the worksheets to each treasurer about a week before training. Be sure I have the correct name and email address for your unit treasurer. **If you don't receive the workbooks by Wednesday, January 20, please let me know so I can get the information to you.**

Our total pledge to mission giving in 2020 for the Arlington District was \$20,561, which means we met our pledge this year! Considering the difficulties of this year, that is an amazing feat! Thank you to all who gave to help the continue the work of United Methodist Women.

**Don't forget to start working on your pledge for 2021. Once you have determined your pledge, please send in the amount to Debby for our records.**

It is 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>

May God bless you all in the coming year.

Beth Meserve  
507 N. Brighton Ct.  
Sterling, VA 20164  
[beth.meserve@gmail.com](mailto:beth.meserve@gmail.com)  
703-404-0542

# Treasurer

# Debby Fairweather

Hi,

My name is Debby Fairweather, and I am glad to be joining the Arlington District UMW Board as the new treasurer. A great thanks to Beth Meserve, our outgoing Arlington District Treasurer, for all her work.

A little about me. I have been a member of Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington for nearly 25 years, and a member of United Methodist Women (UMW) for almost as long. I have served on my church's UMW Board for many years, most recently as UMW President. I have been treasurer of a number of organizations over the years including my college club and my children's middle and high school Parent-Teacher Associations. I will be celebrating 40 years as a federal employee this spring and 32 years of marriage to my wonderful husband, Rob, also a federal employee. We have two daughters, Julia, who is finishing her Master of Business Administration this spring at Carnegie Mellon University and Diana, a first-year law student at the University of North Carolina Law School in Chapel Hill. Last, but not least, we have Katniss, our 5-year-old grand dog who loves walks in our neighborhood when she comes to visit.

I look forward to working with the other Arlington District Board members this year as well as the unit treasurers. Beth has left our finances in sound shape. Please feel free to contact me at any time at [RDFairweather@verizon.net](mailto:RDFairweather@verizon.net) as I settle into this new role.

Debby



Treasurer

Debby Fairweather

### 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

## Education & Interpretation

### Training and Transformation Dreams Do Come True: The Story of Rosa Girls Without Future Sewing Project

Rosa Horacio Vicente and her husband, Henriques, had a successful baking business in Inchope village where they live. That is, before a road rehabilitation project sponsored by the Chinese government was approved by the Mozambican government. Construction workers poured into Rosa's village, and as the demand for bread increased, so did the competition.

Neither Rosa nor her husband had alternative sources of income, but they had mouths to feed. They tried to remain competitive by improving the quality of their bread and increasing the size of the loaf, but even so, there were days when they returned home without selling a single loaf of bread.

Rosa began her search for alternative ways to feed her family and heard from her parish in Inchope about the opportunity to become a seamstress. This was a long-lost passion and dream. Motivated by the desire to help ends meet she immediately enrolled in the United Methodist Women's sewing project at Gondola Vocational Center, about 90 miles from home, in March of 2019. Upon completion of the course and graduation in November of the same year, she could not contain her joy when she was offered a sewing kit and machine. It was as if the doors and windows of heaven were opened and this family could not find the words to express their deep gratitude for this gift from United Methodist Women.

When asked how she feels about being selected as a beneficiary of this kit she quickly responds with, "I feel blessed, humbled and surprised to become the recipient of such a blessing" She did not expect to have a sewing machine so quickly. Her husband chimed in and said, "I am more than happy for this gift because I felt concerned, not having any solution of how to buy a sewing machine for my wife to proceed with her work."

Because of the sewing machine they can save money making clothes for the family and earn extra money taking orders from community members. This will allow them to send their 6-year-old daughter to school, their youngest is still a toddler.

Rosa continues to express her gratitude saying, "Firstly, I would like to thank the UMW for the sewing skills that will be of great value for the rest of my life; secondly, I am indebted to the UMW national office for the meaningful gift of the sewing machine, which will fuel my economic success and that of my family; thirdly, I thank God for the immeasurable blessings." She encourages other women to enroll in the sewing courses to gain this useful skill that helps women come out of and reduce the economic dependency in which many of them find themselves.

By Alzira Sebastian and Angelina Mbulo



# Social Action

Cheryl Moore

## Resolve to Make 2021 a Year of Social Action

**Welcome to 2021! I'm sure you will agree that 2020 was a tumultuous year. The deadly covid-19 pandemic cost millions of lives and upended countless livelihoods. There has been unequal access to treatment for the virus, as well as arguments about who should be first in line to get the vaccine. Police brutality spawned protests in support of racial justice and called us to closely examine our role in systemic racism that gives white people an advantage in our society. Global warming continues to contribute to climate change, which disproportionately affects those who are already the most vulnerable.**

Since our founding, United Methodist Women have worked to address inequities such as these. While it may seem overwhelming, there are things each of us can do to help create a more equitable world **for all of God's children.** For 2021-2024 quadrennium, United Methodist Women has chosen to focus on two social action priorities: climate justice and criminalization of communities of color. Go to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/action>, where you will find resources and inspiration for social action that you can undertake as an individual or, better yet, with others in your UMW unit.

In Virginia, United Methodist Women partners with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) to advocate for legislation that helps residents of our own state. This year, the priorities are to:

- Abolish the death penalty
- Establish a paid sick day standard for workers
- Ensure that farmworkers are paid the minimum wage
- Provide prenatal care for immigrant women
- Create environmental policies for protecting water rights and establishing public transit

Because we cannot go to Richmond this year to meet with our legislators, VICPP has put together an **online event that makes it easy for all of us to participate. You can learn more about the 2021 "Days for All People" and register here:**

<https://virginiainterfaithcenter.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=153>. I encourage you to sign up for any or all of the sessions that may help you choose a social action focus for your unit.

**I look forward to seeing you on January 23, at our "District Day" (formerly "Training Day") where we will have a chance to talk about social action and how to get involved. Today, more than ever, we are called not to sit on the sidelines, but to make our voices heard. Let us make a New Year's resolution to work together in 2021 and beyond to be social justice leaders in our communities, our state, and our world.**

Cheryl Moore  
[cherylwaitmoore@gmail.com](mailto:cherylwaitmoore@gmail.com)  
703-981-9879.

*"The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."* When John Wesley says that holiness is social he means that the depth of your love for God is revealed by the way you love whom God loves.

## Membership, Nurture and Outreach

### CENSUS FOR 2020

It is that time of year again when we are asked to let the national office know information about our units and about us. This information is important, it helps them plan projects, programs and events that are relevant to us and what is happening in the world.

United Methodist Women will never share your contact information without your consent.

**2020 CENSUS NOW CALLED UNIT SURVEY:** Each Unit is asked to complete this survey. This task is usually done by the Membership, Nurture and Outreach person. If your unit does not have one, the president or someone she asks can do it. This survey asks questions about the unit in general such as number of members, how many new members, how many have died, and total number of members. There are questions about what your unit has done, what interests you have, if you are thinking of becoming inactive and why, as well as others. If you are new or need help, please contact me. I am happy to assist you. We will talk about this at Training Day, but please do not wait. Go online. It is not a difficult process. I respectfully request that you complete the Unit Survey as soon as you can. The deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The survey is accessed at: [www.UnitedMethodistWomen.org/Census2020](http://www.UnitedMethodistWomen.org/Census2020)

**MY UMW:** This is the member registration. Each member is asked to go online and fill out the form. I know that some members do not have computers or do not feel comfortable doing this. That is fine, someone else can do it for you. If you do not have an email address, there is a different form for you. It is the same, they just do not ask for an email address. There is a How-To video at the beginning if you need it. But the form is short and easy to fill out. Some units have one person to fill out the forms for everyone. You can do that or a bit of both depending on your members. At the end you can print a membership card. The deadline is the same as above, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Use the same link as the Census.

Doris

Pledge To Be Counted!



# Spiritual Growth

Dana Connor

Stepping out in faith, we seek to make changes that are vital for revitalizing United Methodist Women. **The Arlington District Day theme is “Forward in Hope”. I think we can all use a little hope after 2020.** This year, I am the new Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Arlington District and this theme is so important to me in 2021.

We need each other, more than ever, to develop spiritually through social and global involvement. We can deepen our relationship with God as we reeducate ourselves about what we do as United Methodist Women and how we work as a team. We can do this by revitalizing our units through training and worship.

We can plan a spiritual growth retreat (currently on Zoom), or learn about spiritual growth studies, plan a United Methodist Women Service, or plan a workshop.

To learn more about Spiritual Growth development opportunities, I have included a link to our UMW website <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/spiritual-growth>.

In the meantime, what you can do now is look for the good that you can do for others during this pandemic. Every small act of kindness counts, from prayer to meal delivery, food/supplies for a local food pantry to calling neighbors and shut-ins and the elderly to offer cheer, etc. There is no limit to the affect you can have when you grow your spiritual life through helping others.

Spiritual Growth begins with each of us. Reach out to me anytime.

[dana@siblingtunes.com](mailto:dana@siblingtunes.com) or call 571-926-2800.





# Arlington District Day

(Formerly Arlington Training Day)  
Saturday - January 23, 2021



Via Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting by clicking below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrdoMoqT8vHtJaqbZsKRILizivs8aB5dvS>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

9:15 a.m. to gather and ensure connectivity

9:30 a.m. start time

Come and learn about UMW positions: A new role you have taken on, or a role **you've always wondered about or might be interested in.** **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Action, Education and Interpretation, Membership, Spiritual Growth and Program Resources.**

In these trying times we need you now, more than ever. This is open to all United Methodist Women – no need to be a current officer. We hope that you will join us. We expect this to go no more than an hour and a half.

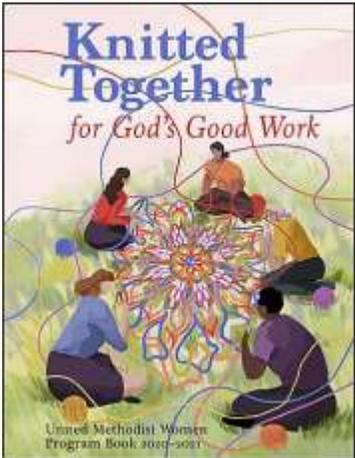


# Arlington District United Methodist Women 2021 Calendar

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
Arlington District Day—via zoom	January 23, 2021 9:30 am
Arlington District Spring Prayer Event—via zoom	March 20
Virginia Conference Spiritual Life Retreat—via zoom	May 15
Arlington District Vespers	May 29
UMW Day at Ferrum College	June 5
Virginia Conference Mission Encounter—via zoom	July 23-25
<b>Virginia Conference Young Women’s Event</b> —via zoom	Sept. 10-11
Arlington District Annual Meeting	Sept. 25
Virginia Conference 49th Annual Meeting—via zoom	Oct. 23
Arlington District Mini-Mission Encounter	Nov. 13



## Arlington District United Methodist Women Officers for 2021

### ELECTED OFFICERS

#### President

Doris Douglass  
7213 Vellex Lane  
Annandale, VA 22003  
703-642-0661  
DorisDouglass@msn.com

#### Social Action

Cheryl Moore  
6008 19th St N  
Arlington, VA 22205  
703-237-9481  
cherylwaitmoore@gmail.com

#### Vice President

Beth Meserve  
507 N. Brighton Ct.  
Sterling, VA 20164-3919  
703-404-0542  
beth.meserve@gmail.com

#### Spiritual Growth

Dana Connor  
39400 Buchannon Gap  
Aldie, VA 20105  
571-926-2800  
office@aldieumc.org, dana@siblingtunes.com

#### Secretary

Janet Keener  
1803 Midlothian Court  
Vienna, VA 22182-3428  
703-281-7685  
Janet\_Keener@cox.net

#### Secretary for Program Resources

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

#### Treasurer

Debby Fairweather  
4931 N. 29th Street  
Arlington, VA 22207  
703-237-9324  
rdfairweather@verizon.net

### NOMINATIONS

*Vacant*

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

#### Communications/Editor of the *Tapestry*

Frances Ellis  
2933 Fox Mill Road  
Oak Hill, VA 20171  
703-476-1127  
FWEllis@aol.com or  
ArlingtonDistrictUMW@gmail.com

### MISSION COORDINATORS

#### Education and Interpretation

*Vacant*

#### Membership Nurture and Outreach

*Vacant*



For general information about Arlington District UMW, e-mail  
[arlingtondistrictumw@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtondistrictumw@gmail.com)