



Mission Tapestry

Arlington District United Methodist Women

Vol. XLII, No. IV

October 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 by the 1st of the publication month.

Check out our website at www.ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org

District President's Message

The weather has finally changed, and Autumn is finally here. I hope you are able to enjoy the nice days and cool nights.

The District Annual Meeting was September 25th. We installed the officers for 2022, presented awards, burned the candle for 22 minutes and 14 seconds and honored our sisters who had passed away this year. We said goodbye to Janet Keener who has served as District Secretary for over eight years. We will miss her attention to detail. We also said goodbye to Cheryl Moore who has served for two years as our Social Action Coordinator. We will miss her good ideas and quick wit.

We welcomed Beth Meserve as the new District President. I know she will do a great job. Phyllis Kirkman is our new Secretary. This is a new job for her but with Janet as her mentor, I know she will be fine. Lois Hidalgo joined as Education and Interpretation Coordinator. We are very glad to welcome her to the team.

The Mini Mission is coming November 13th at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom. Our speaker is Darlene Runaldue. She is the Next Generation Ministries Director at Wesley UMC in Vienna. We have

asked her to speak about what it means to her to be a woman in mission, and one or two of the mission trips she has been on.

This is my last Tapestry article as President. I have enjoyed my time as your president. It has been fun and challenging, especially the last 18 months or so. It was difficult not being with all of you in person at our district events. However, we did discover new talents, ways of being in Mission and staying connected. I will continue to be involved with the District UMW as part of the Transition Team. Did you think I was going to fade away? Not a chance! As United Methodist Women, we are committed to mission, at home and around the world. Changes are coming. We need to embrace those changes, so we can continue our commitment to be in mission to women, children and youth.

Doris Douglass, President
Arlington District UMW

District Realignment

Many of you may already know this. Change is on the way. The Virginia Conference UMC is planning to combine the Alexandria and Arlington Districts into one district by 2023. They are currently working on this. That means the Alexandria and Arlington Districts of the UMW will also become one district. The name of the new district has not been decided and current boundaries may change.

For the last few months, Beth and I have been working with Maria Ward and Marty Bickford from the Alexandria District. Our plan is to use 2022 as a year of transition. We plan to:

1. Coordinate/combine our calendars making sure all events are advertised to the women in both districts.
2. Some offices will be shared by both districts. In 2023 there will be one set of officers.
3. Maintain separate treasuries but begin working together with the goal of one treasury in 2023.
4. Combine the newsletters during 2022.

We are looking forward to working with our UMW sisters in the Alexandria district during this process. Many things will be changing, and we are not sure how things will go or what we will look like in the end. The task seems overwhelming at times. There is so much to do, combining district By-Laws, newsletters, and events, just to name a few. We will do our best to keep you informed as we create and travel these new roads.

These will be challenging times for sure, but we will come through it. I ask that you pray for the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women. We all need to pray for wisdom, patience, cooperation, discernment, and that God's will will be done.

Doris Douglass
Transition Team



Vice President

Beth Meserve

New Beginnings

As I prepare to take over the role of President of the Arlington District United Methodist Women, I have been reflecting on new beginnings. There is something about new beginnings that we love. Driving a new car, shopping for new clothes, the butterflies that come with a new relationship, buying a new home, the promise of a new year, or writing in a new journal. New things excite us. They motivate and inspire us to action of some sort. This allows us to grow, create, invent and adapt.

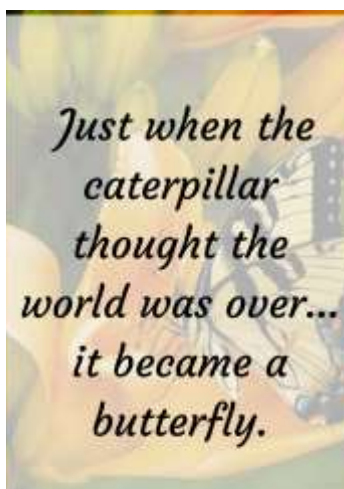
I believe that our excitement of new beginnings is instilled in us by God because of his promise to make all things new (Revelation 21:5). God talks a lot about new beginnings. In fact, the first three words of the Bible are, **“In the beginning.”** David speaks of singing a new song of praise to the Lord (Psalm 40:3). Ezekiel says that God will renew our spirits (Ezekiel 11:19). Paul says that we have been made new by God and that we no longer have to live according to our old selves (Ephesians 4:22–24). **The author of Lamentations declared that God’s mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22–23).** We love new beginnings! They allow us to marvel in joy of the Lord for what he is doing in and for those whom he has called by name.

Please pray for me as I begin this new journey. I have huge shoes to fill; Doris has done a marvelous job of leading us for the past 5 years. I am humbled to be following in her footsteps, and grateful that she has agreed to help me as I take on this leadership role. I hope each one of you will also work with me to make this next year a fruitful one for the Lord.

May we go forth together in praise for our Heavenly Father, and love for each other, both at home, in our communities, and around the world. God Bless each one of you.

God Bless You,

Beth Meserve
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and
so the
adventure
begins



Secretary

Janet Keener



Dear UMW Sisters in Christ,

Faith • Hope • Love in Action

What a beautiful autumn day! The sun is shining and the temperature is very comfortable! We cannot ask for anything more!

This is a time of old and new beginnings for us. The Virginia Conference is combining districts - two by two. The Arlington and the Alexandria District will become one district for the UMC. The Arlington and Alexandria United Methodist Women are combining as well - a New Beginning. Our Bi-District relationship is transitioning into one district with 2022 being our year of transition to be completed by 2023.

Meanwhile, for some of us, we have served the Arlington District UMW Team at least eight years; we reached the max! We move on to New Beginnings. My goal is to move forward with my UMW unit and evolve to bring our ladies together for some in-person activities and still do ZOOM events to maintain all relationships. Changing does not mean losing; changing allows us to explore opportunities to reflect and grow with New Beginnings.

I look forward to seeing and being with you soon. Remember to mark your calendar for our *Mini-Mission Event on Saturday, November 13, 2021!*

In Christian Love,

Janet

janet_keener@cox.net

Therefore
if anyone
is in Christ,
the new creation
has come:
The old has gone,
the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17

Treasurer

Debby Fairweather

It's hard to believe that we are in the 4th quarter of the year already. Currently our Mission Giving for Arlington District, which includes our Pledge to Mission, Rainbow Giving, and Candle Burning, stands at slightly over \$14,000. This means in order to reach our District's Mission Giving pledge for this year of \$20,000, we need to raise an additional \$6,000 during the 4th quarter. I know many units are still not meeting in person or at all, but to paraphrase our Virginia Conference President, Nancy Walsh, from a recent meeting of the Virginia Districts treasurers, there are still women and children in the world that need our support. It is never too late to send me a Pledge to Mission or become a Rainbow Giver and honor someone special.

The approved Arlington District budget for 2022 keeps expenses in line with 2021 with an addition of an Honorarium for the Bi- District Meeting speaker. Our Mission Giving for 2022 has been lowered to \$18,000 until we see how COVID-19 and its aftereffects play out. Start thinking about what your unit will be able to give in 2022 towards that goal.

Most UMW districts across the state are facing the same issues we are. With no in person meetings, we are not collecting the offering dollars we once did at those meetings. To address this, our Virginia Conference treasurer and some of the district treasurers are exploring on-line giving at UMW events.

As always, if you have any questions about the budget or giving, contact me at RDFairweather@verizon.net or 703-237-9324.

Debby Fairweather
Arlington District Treasurer



Treasurer

Debby Fairweather

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UMW RAINBOW WOMANYes, **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 Special Recognition 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: Debby Fairweather, 4931 North 29th Street, Arlington, VA 22207

Email: RDFairweather@verizon.net Phone: 703-237-9324

Social Action

Cheryl Moore

Listen...Learn...Change

Last summer I was taking a walk on a street I hadn't walked on before. I always like to look at yard signs; you can learn a lot about the residents of a house that way. One sign stopped me in my tracks. It was simple, only three words -- listen, learn, change -- with a graphic of three sets of hands -- black, brown, and white -- holding up the classic two-finger sign for "Peace."

That sign has stuck with me for several months now, and I thought of it when I sat down to write **this column. It seems like a good definition for social action, doesn't it?**

For more than 150 years, United Methodist Women have been working to change legislations, systems, structures, and practices that are unjust and oppressive. The work can seem daunting, but I truly believe that each one of us can find some way to engage in social action. I encourage all of us in the Arlington District to identify something in our community, state or world that needs to change -- then follow the steps:

- Listen for and read about issues that affect the most vulnerable among us. In addition to the mainstream media, you can find current news on the UMW (<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/press-releases>) and Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (<https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/>) websites.
- Learn from books in the UMW reading program, UMW mission studies (<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies>), "Faith Talks" podcasts (<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faihtalks>), and UMW social action resources (<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/social-action-member-resources>).
- Raise your voice to call for Change. Advocate for local and national legislation that promotes and protects equity and justice. Use your influence in your family, church, and community to demand that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Partner with UMW sisters around the world in the pursuit of hope, health, and peace for all of God's children.

This will be my last column as Social Action Coordinator for the Arlington District. I've enjoyed working with the District team and learning more about social action priorities of the Virginia Annual Conference and National United Methodist Women. I'm sorry that Covid-19 got in the way of my getting to know many of you personally, but I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings on Zoom, and, hopefully, in person one day in the future. May God's spirit be with you today and always as you seek to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Cheryl Moore, Social Action
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703-981-9879

Education & Interpretation

Shanel's Story: A Return to School

by Flory Emma Atieno

Shanel has good reason to smile: she's back at school and learning life skills through Operation Hope.

Shanel is a 13-year old girl at a primary school in Nairobi. Fourth born among five children, her family lives in Kayole, where her father supports the family through menial jobs and her mother supports the family by selling fish in the marketplace. Fishmongering is an upgrade from her previous **neighbourhood laundry job**. **Shanel's mother credits United Methodist Women with the positive turn of events in their lives.**

Previously, Shanel would go to bed hungry. She lacked the basic necessities of life including a school lunch or a sanitary pad. In school, she and her siblings were often laughed at by their peers, who jeered at them for their extreme poverty. The smile on her face did not reveal the hard times she was facing.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in Kenya in 2020, Shanel and her siblings were forced to stay home from school. They only survived by doing menial jobs for their neighbours who would give them **a bit of food in exchange for a day's work.**

When the government reopened schools, with the necessary restrictions in place, her mother decided to send only the eldest child to school as she could not afford to send them all. Shanel stayed home, hoping and praying that things would be better for the family. Her clothes were worn and she began to look haggard.

However, the situation changed for the family when her mother benefitted from a loan funded by United Methodist Women through the Operation Hope Socio-Economic Empowerment for the Vulnerable (SEEV) program, also called the Vulnerable Response Project (VRP). This program addresses the economic empowerment of women living with HIV/AIDS; the project encourages business development, education and the mentoring of recipients.

New Skills

One of sixty beneficiaries of the loan, Shanel's mother was able to stop washing clothes for others and open her fish business which proved profitable. Her mother paid Shanel's tuition, bought food stuff and other necessities, including personal hygiene items.

Shanel returned to school! At this time, Operation Hope continues to provide life skills support for beneficiaries of the program and their families, such as Shanel and her mother.

Shanel told her counsellor, "Many of my friends wanted me to join groups that could improve my social standing. Such groups include befriending men who had money and therefore would pay many of my costs and keep me comfortable. Had it not been for the training I had received in life skills, I would have succumbed to peer pressure and would have left school."

Education & Interpretation

The support from United Methodist Women for this COVID-19 grant has gone a long way to keep Shanel in school and at the same time, build her self-esteem. Today, Shanel does not see herself as so alone but feels a part of Operation Hope, a place of hope in the marginalized and informal settlements of Nairobi. She and her family thank United Methodist Women.

With Regional Missionary Elmira Sellu, Flory L. Atieno co-founded and leads the United Methodist Women-funded Operation Hope in Nairobi, Kenya.

United Methodist Women Economic Development Initiative (EDI) creates economic opportunities even in the most vulnerable rural communities. The seed grants support women entrepreneurs to start and run viable small enterprises, agribusinesses and income-generating activities. The opportunities that these small grants create for women, their families and communities are powerful catalysts, especially during COVID-19 when the economic situation is becoming more and more insecure.



Arlington District UMW Mini-Mission Encounter

Saturday, November 13, 9:30 a.m. via zoom

Our speaker will be Darlene Runaldue.

Darlene was the Mission Encounter Dean for 2021.

She is the Next Generation Ministries Director at Wesley UMC in Vienna.

She will be speaking to us about what called her to Mission and some of the mission trips she has been on.



Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAVc-CurzoiEtX6jdbGdbN1Tlh_Dpw8BySs

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

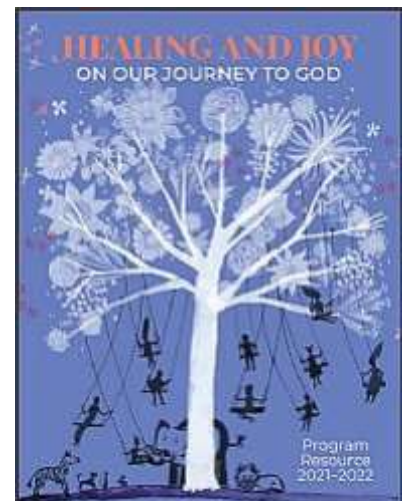


Arlington District United Methodist Women 2021 Calendar

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 Mini-Mission Encounter—via zoom	Nov. 13 9:30 a.m.
Arlington District UMW District Day @ tbd	Jan. 29, 2022 9:30 a.m.



Arlington District United Methodist Women Officers for 2021

ELECTED OFFICERS

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Vacant

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Vacant

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Vacant



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