



THE JOYFUL MESSENGER

Publication of Lynchburg District United Methodist Women

FEBRUARY 2008

Ladies - with the beginning of a new year, I hope all of your units are off to a good start. We only have one new member on our Mission Team this year and that is Karen Bragg. She will be replacing Martha Prebble as our new District Treasurer. In the next month, she will be contacting all of the unit treasurers to introduce herself and give you the information you will need for the coming year. You will find her very easy to work with. Also, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Martha for all of the hard work she has put into the office as our District Treasurer for the past several years.

We have had our first District Mission Team meeting and there will be a lot of things happening in the district. The first, our Day Apart / Mini Mission Day is going to be combined into one program this year on March 29 from 9:00-12:00. It will be on Israel & Palestine with Wes Astin, Chaplain, Ferrum College. Second, the Area Coordinators will be contacting all Unit Presidents in the next month to determine when it would be convenient for some of the District Officers to come and meet with you. They will answer any questions that you may have for them and will be glad to help you in any way that they can. One of our goals is to visit all of the units this year.

The Mission Today form was included in the packet that was mailed to you in December unless you were at the Advent Brunch /Program to pick yours up. I hope you have already started working on this. I would like us to increase our participation again this year. Last year we placed 5TH in the Conference with a 60 percent increase in Mission Today awards. I would like to see an 80 percent increase this year and I think we can do it if we work at it. Additionally, I would like to thank everyone that brought things for Parkview Community Missions.

Our Nominations Committee is starting their hard work of building a talent bank of people that will be willing to fill positions in the District in the next several years. Glynis Hopkins is our Chairperson for nominations. If you know of anyone that would be willing to fill any of the positions on the District Level, please contact her and give her their name. Then when a position becomes available, the nominations committee can contact this individual to see if they are willing to accept the job.

Please read your newsletter and share it with your unit. A lot of time and effort goes into putting your newsletter together. We want to make sure everyone knows what is going on. So please take and share it and have a Happy New year.

Jan Klahn, District President
434-610-9301
fklahn@worldnet.att.net

BEGIN THE YEAR RIGHT

WITH PRAYER

I wanted to share this prayer with my UMW sisters for the beginning of 2008, prayer taken from The Institute for World Peace through Prayer and Meditation.

Dear God -

Praised are You who created the universe, Praise your Holy Name.

Thank You for giving me and my family life. Thank You Dear God for creating such glorious beauty in this world and thank You for giving me the ability to appreciate Your creation.

Please Dear God, I humbly ask You to shine Your love on me, my family and all people and may Your love bring perfect holiness, perfect health and peace, peace in my heart and soul, peace in my family, peace in my nation, and peace in the entire world.

Please Dear God, help me to know my highest purpose and to realize total success. Please grant me wisdom in order to best serve You here on earth.

Thank You God for hearing my prayer and for giving me and all life, holiness, perfect health, peace, wisdom, success, and forgiveness.

Praise You Dear God who loves His creation and brings peace, love and holiness to all life.

May peace prevail on Earth.

Amen.

Remember Prayer is the key to God's Kingdom
and Faith unlocks the door.

Pat Butler, Spiritual Growth Coordinator
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TREASURER'S REPORT

To All Presidents and Treasurers:

As your new District Treasurer I want to tell you how happy I am to be working with you and your unit. As we go through the year, I plan to add data that will hopefully help you in your collections, I look forward to working with you. Please add my address (noted below) to your address book in order to forward contributions to me.

I hope that all involved will be eager to continue the Mission work with good donations and pledges and will be receptive to the programs for 2008. I am confident that you will find many ways to offer help in these programs. In the following information from our Conference Treasurer you will see below some of our concerns which I will follow-up with more explanation in a letter to you.

- The World Thank Offering and Candle Burning.
- Call to Prayer and Self Denial theme for 2008 is "Learning for a Lifetime".
- Tacoma Community House, Tacoma, Washington.
- Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly, Kentucky.
- Asian Women's Resource Center at Gum Moon Women's Residence, San Francisco.
- Scott's Run Settlement House Osage, West Virginia for the Wheel of Change program.

There are also International Projects, for more information order A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial handbook 2005-2008 from the Mission Resource Center. You might check the Women' Division web site for additional information also.

It is now time to remind you of the due dates for our quarterly remittances. It is important to follow this plan, as I must also keep this schedule in order to forward the payments received to the Conference Treasurer. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this task.

The dates for each quarter are:

March 10, 2008 * June 10, 2008 * September 10, 2008 * December 10, 2008

Looking forward to a great 2008.

Karen Bragg, District Treasurer
184 Acres Court, Lynch Station, VA 24571
434-369-4666 vette92lt1@aol.com

NOTES from your Co-Vice Presidents

You will remember in the spring of 2007, we had as our guests on our District, two ladies from Mozambique, one of which was Mrs. Maria Garrine, President of the Mozambique South Conference Women's Society. It is with deep sorrow that we have learned of the death of Maria on October 26th. She was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer since her return from Virginia in the spring. Maria was the taller of the ladies who did most of the interpretation of their story - a truly remarkable dedicated Christian woman. We extend our condolences and our prayers to Maria's family and to our sisters in the Women's Society. The Virginia Conference is still planning the second part of our Mozambique-Virginia Exchange by sending a team, sponsored by Women's Division, primarily for women from the Virginia and Missouri conferences.

At the District Advent Brunch and Worship in December, packets were distributed to all the local units. If there were individuals from your church present, please check with them and find your packet that contains the 2008 Program Book, *Publish Glad Tidings!* There are a number of excellent program suggestions that can be used in their entirety or just portions for your local units' programs. Also, at the Day Apart/Mini Mission Day on March 29th, we will have materials available to take home on one of our National Mission Projects, Red Bird Mission. Please keep your unit informed of the many mission opportunities available through our UMC Missions Program.

Becky Spangler, Co-Vice President

1453 Heathwood Drive, Goode, VA 24556 * 540-586-6009 * dbspangl@verizon.net

Nancy VanZan, Co-Vice President

2020 Burnt Bridge Rd, Lynchburg, VA 24503 * 434-384-9546* nvanzant@verison.net

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH

Dear Ladies, Hope you had a wonderful Christmas. As we go into 2008 please read your newsletters, keep an accurate account of members, new and those removed from rolls and deceased. You will not need to do any reports until September, so please keep in mind it is important to observe deadlines and if you have any questions please call me and I will help you any way I can. If you would like, I will be glad to visit your unit and give you any pointers I can. This will also help you if you are interested in being a "Mission Today" unit.

Have a good year and increase your membership. Also keep in mind, not all new members have to be United Methodist. Any woman or man interested can join even from another church or religion.

Pat Wariner, Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator
455 Toll Gate Road, Concord, VA 24538

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Lynchburg District UMW
Day Apart/Mini Mission Day

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Registration – 8:30 a.m. * Program – 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon * Noon Luncheon

Fort Hill United Methodist Church

106 Oakridge Blvd., Lynchburg, Va.

Speaker: Rev. Wes Astin
Chaplain, Ferrum College

Topic: Israel/Palestine

Books will not be used in the class, but if you would like to order a copy of the study book, *please call Patty Kane at 434-525-2297 no later than February 15th so books can be ordered to arrive in time for the session.*

Study Book - \$9.00

Noon Luncheon \$8.00

Our Mission Project – The Timothy Project

Units are asked to bring items that are needed and yet they can never get enough of:

- * Spray fabric paint (bright colors)
- * Construction paper
- * Poster board (all colors)
- * Colored Tissue Paper
- * Pony Beads (assorted colors – Michaels)
- * Money

Spring 2008 Day Apart/Mini Mission Registration

Name of Church: _____ Total Attending _____

Number for Luncheon _____ x (\$8.00 each) = _____

Amount Enclosed
\$

Number of books being ordered _____ x (\$9.00 each) = _____
(Please include names of those ordering books on separate sheet)

Registration must be made no later than Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Please make checks payable to: Lynchburg District UMW

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Well it is January 2008 and this month is flying by fast also. Hope everyone had a very nice Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I am so proud of all you ladies. At our annual conference in Blackstone in October, the Lynchburg District was awarded 5th place for having a 60 % increase in Mission Today Units. That was the first time we have won that award and it is something we all share in. Of course, I would like to see that number grow for this year and us move up in the ranks and not get last place. We need to strive for number one. You should already have 2 items checked on your current form if you attended our annual district meeting at Centenary and brought items for the prison ministry.

I will be glad to help any unit that might have questions concerning the form. Every unit should have a copy of the 2008 Mission Today form, if not, contact me at 434-525-4275. A copy was included in the packets that were handed out at the advent brunch.

Mark your calendars for our Mission Study/Day Apart on March 29th. It will be an exciting time. Wes Astin will be speaking on Israel and Palestine. The meeting will be at Fort Hill UMC and Lunch will be \$8.00. We will be taking up an offering for Red Bird Missions and we will be collecting the below listed items for the Timothy Project.

1. Spray Fabric Paint (bright colors)
2. Construction Paper
3. Poster Board (all colors)
4. Colored Tissue Paper
5. Pony Beads (assorted colors - Michaels)
6. Money

Thanks for all the items you brought to the Advent Brunch for Park View Missions. We had 2 cars full of supplies and they were very appreciative.

Remember keep working on those Mission Today forms and I looking forward to seeing all of you at our mission study in March.

Linda Muldrow
Education & Interpretation Coordinator
252 Lake Forest Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502
434-525-4275
copelandsims@aol.com

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SOCIAL ACTION for 2008

Greetings! It's hard to believe it's already 2008! It's an election year, a time when all United Methodist Women will have an opportunity to support and vote for local and national candidates. What are the candidates saying about their plans to embrace and work on important social action issues? Take the time to learn about the candidates and their positions, and then, exercise your right as an American citizen – VOTE!

As your Unit selects Social Actions issues to focus on for 2008, keep in mind the three Social Action Priorities that the VA Conference UMW and the Lynchburg District UMW adopted for 2007-2008. They are listed below. Within each of these broad areas, you will be able to begin, or in many cases, continue activities and events that will increase awareness of the issue and truly make a difference in your church, community, and the world! I would recommend that you select one or two specific issues on which to focus. The priorities are:

- Campaign for Children, Phase III, Public School Education
- Being Peacemakers
- Environmental Stewardship

Additional information on these and other Social Action issues and activities can be found on the VA Conference UMW website, <http://www.vaumw.org/> and the Women's Division of UMC, <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/>.

If your Unit would like assistance in planning or presenting Social Action issues, I would be happy to assist you in anyway possible. Please call or email (noted below).

In His Service,

Deb Broadwater
Social Action Coordinator
221 Vermont Avenue, Moneta, VA 24121

deb.broadwater@msn.com

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PROGRAM RESOURCES

A new year has begun! With it, we have many opportunities to continue learning and sharing our missions. Each unit should now have at least one copy of the 2008 program book and the 2008 Reading Program booklet. (If not, please let me know.) Hopefully everyone found a listing of the reading program books that can be found through the Lynchburg Public Library (tucked inside the booklet). I am currently working on the list of books that can be found at the Campbell County library. If anyone needs another copy of the program book or the reading program booklet, please contact me. The program books are \$5.50 (including postage) and the reading program booklets have no charge.

The current plans are to have a reading program book consignment for the District Day Apart/Mini Mission Day on March 29th. At that time, you will have the opportunity to be able to look at some of the new books on the 2008 reading list. I will probably only order one copy of each, but will be willing to take orders for more.

Also, if you would like to have a copy of the current study book, Israel and Palestine, you can either order the book from the Mission Resource Center on your own, or I can make a "bulk" order for you. By making a larger order, we can share the cost of postage. If you are interested in having me order a copy for you, the cost would be \$9.00 (including the postage). My phone number and email address is listed below.

The Prayer Calendars are now available. They were printed in mid-December. You can now order them from the Mission Resource Center as well.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions. I am also willing to come to one of your unit's meetings to present the Reading Program to your members.

Patty Kane, Secretary of Program Resources
104 Kirkley Place, Forest, VA 24551
434-525-2297 ekane24551@aol.com

2008 Dates To Remember

- March 29th , 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon..... District Day Apart / Mini Mission Day at Fort Hill UMC
Guest Speaker: Rev. Wes Astin, Chaplain of Ferrum College
“Israel & Palestine Study”
- April 4-6th Southeastern Jurisdictional Quadrennial Meeting, Hampton, VA
- April 19th , 9:00 a.m. District Mission Team Meeting at Fort Hill UMC
- May 16-18th Virginia Conference Spiritual Life Retreat
at VUMAC, Blackstone, VA
- June 7th UMW Day at Ferrum College
- June 15-18th Virginia Annual Conference, Roanoke, VA
- June 17th Breakfast at Annual Conference
- July 12th , 9:00 a.m. District Mission Team Meeting at Fort Hill UMC
- July 25 – 27th (weekend session) School of Christian Mission
at VUMAC, Blackstone, VA
- July 28th – 31st (week session) School of Christian Mission
at VUMAC, Blackstone, VA
- August 10th UMW / UMM sponsored Picnic at Peakland UMC
- September 28th Lynchburg District UMW Annual Meeting (Location TBA)
Speaker: Deb Broadwater, Social Action Coordinator
“Charter for Racial Justice”
- October 11th , 9:00 a.m. District Mission Team Meeting at Fort Hill UMC
- October 25-26th Virginia Conference UMW Annual Meeting
at VUMAC, Blackstone, VA
Keynote Speaker: Bishop Charlene Kammerer
- December 6th District Advent Brunch and Worship, Heritage UMC

