



Lynchburg District United Methodist Women

The Joyful Messenger

Fourth Quarter

2009

Ladies,

It is hard to believe that this year is almost over. We just finished having our annual meeting and I would like to thank all that participated in the meeting and also a special thank you to May Murphy who filled in at the last minute for Nancy Van Zant and we have had a very productive year. We have conducted many programs, on the district and conference levels, and we have had good participation from all of our members.

We have had a positive year. We have 55 Units in the district this year and the majority of them are very active. I will be meeting soon with a church that would like to recharter and become active again and there is a possibility that we will also have another unit being chartered.

We had 36 Mission Today Units this year. This was over half of our units reporting that have met the criteria. This included 18 Mission Today Units, 17 Silver Units and 1 Gold Unit. We have also had a good year for the reading program. We had 22 Units reporting, with a total of 64 readers, who read 664 books and we gave out 17 children's reading certificates. Last year we only gave out 12. This year we had one 1 five star unit and 17 six star units.

We have 3 new officers 1 that was installed at annual meeting and the other 2 will be installed at a later date.

- Caroline Matherly will be our new Program Resource Coordinator
- Caroline will replace Reba Gurdal
- Iva Scott will be our new Social Action Coordinator
- Iva will be replacing Deb Broadwater
- Debbie Rhodes will be on the Nominations Committee.
- Debbie will be replacing Glynis Hopkins

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find registration form for Advent, also you will have a membership report that will need to be filled out for 2009 and returned to Linda Muldrow 252 Lake Forest Drive, Lynchburg, Va. 24502, phone 434-525-4275.

My contact information has changed because I have moved.

My new address is Janet Klahn, 205 Redwood Terrace, Huddleston, Va. Cell phone is 434-610-9301, e-mail address is jan@b2xonline.com.

In closing, I would just like to say, "Thank you for all your hard work in missions." And hope to see you all at annual meeting at Blackstone when we celebrate 140 years in mission.

Blessing,

Jan Klahn
District President

Highlights from District Annual Meeting and Conference Annual Meeting in Blackstone.

The District Annual Meeting at Bedford Main Street UMC was a well-attended and wonderful program. Our speaker - Louise Miller - Conference Vice President, was inspiring and delightful. Her presentation was "Recharging our UMW Batteries".

Our final program for 2009 is the District Annual Advent Breakfast & Worship at Heritage UMC on Saturday, December 5, 2009--see insert for details. Please come and join us for this event - you'll be glad you did !

The District UMW group is a hard-working and dedicated bunch -- we hope you have enjoyed our 2009 programs. May God continue to bless all we do our work for Him.

Sincerely,

Linda Wright Shafer,

Vice President

Ladies I want to thank all of your hard work on the District. We received 3 awards at Blackstone 1 was 1st place for the larges increase in books read. We received 3 place for the increase in books read by children and we received 2nd place in Candle burning.

We were 2nd in the Nation for Mission Giving in our Conference.

The conference has given a total of \$45,000 Dollars to Blackstone this year from our Dimes and Dollars that we send in. I would like to thank all of you who participate in these programs and if you don't I hope you will make it a priority to start this year. I am very proud of all of you.

Jan Klahn

District President

Spiritual Growth

2010 is right around the corner, so get out your calendars and place the Virginia Conference UMW Spiritual Life retreat on it. Date May 14-16 at VUMAC in Blackstone VA, the retreat leader will be Rev. Janice Prentace. Be in prayer for this annual Spiritual Retreat , lets gather as a sisterhood to give God the Glory.

The Pygmy Children Report. Dr. Dibinga returned from the Republic of the Congo very ill with malaria, he thanks all for their prayers. He is still recovering from his illness, he is still very weak and hope to see us soon. Pictures of the pygmy students and the conditions they live in will be given to their sponsors at the Advent Service in December. Continue to lift up this mission in your prayers.

Pat Butler

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

"Stay in Love with God and Love Your Neighbor as Yourself"



Program Resource

I would like to thank everyone who worked hard on the Reading Program this past year. A lot of books were read and I hope everyone keeps up the good work. The new book lists (2006-2010) can be found online at <http://www.vaumw.org> in the left column click "2010 Reading Program".

Or type this <http://www.vaumw.org/2010%20reading%20program.htm>

I would like to thank Pat Butler for all the help she gave me this past year.

Reba Gurdal



Lynchburg District Treasurer Info 2009



Lady Treasurers:

Please remember to send a list of names attending the Advent Brunch Meeting when you send the pre-registration check to reach me by November 27th. There will be no payment registration at the door, we need to have a good count ahead of time for the UMM, who are serving our meal.

Ladies of the District, I am going to recap some of the information that was given during the Annual meeting on September 27th. The concern is that I have received \$3,400 in membership fees with a few units not reporting in. Yet, our budget was over \$5,000 as we had reserve money to use from past years. Our goal is to match the budget to the membership money, therefore we either all pay our \$3 fees, and bring in new members or we adjust the fees in 2011.

Along with the budget, we have the Pledge to Mission obligations, which most likely will not be met this year. The District Mission team had made a pledge in 2008 for 2009 of \$44,000 however; to date we have \$34,000 in pledges with a few units not making pledges. As of third quarter reporting we have \$29,000 in Pledge to Mission with one more quarter to go.

This year the board approved an Administrative Budget of \$4,030 and reduced the District Pledge to Mission to \$40,000 in hopes that we can catch up and then again be able to increase the pledge by 2012. Ladies, we gave \$52,000 for all pledges in 2008, but we did not meet the first line item the Pledge to Mission. Please review your remittance sheets and check your budgets to see if there might be money that can be added to this entry for 2009.

Remember we all are to "empty the treasury" at the end of the year, are you keeping more money than you need to for your unit to function? Remember we are to only utilize checking accounts. Let me tell you what the District Mission team is doing. As I mentioned, we have had a reserve in the past years, built up from not using all the ADM monies. This money has been accumulating, but this year after we pay all of our obligations (of which we will definitely not need \$5,000) and set enough to cover 2010, we then will forward any remainder to the Conference under the Pledge to Mission. I am estimating \$3,500 extra will be added to our total pledge. Next year in 2010, we will review our process and next December we will then forward all money over/above the first quarter obligations to Pledge to Mission. We do want to be sure we all have working money and want you to be sure you have enough to continue with your work.

This is a sample calculation to see if you making your pledges in a similar way. If a unit had 10 members you would send \$30 to ADM ($\3×10) If each gave \$50 overall for the year this is what should happen. $10 \times 50 = 500$. We would hope that your ADM is not included, but for some we need to work on that so. Our understanding is that we give 80% to mission and 20% to local projects. 20% would be \$100. $\$500 - 100 = \400 to use for mission. A pin cost \$40, you can pledge \$10 or what ever you choose for "In Memory", "In Mission", "World Thank", "Candle Burning" and any of the VA projects. So if you gave \$20 for each (4) of the 6 star areas including the pin you would then

have $\$400 - 120 = \180 . You probably would keep \$50 for the start of the next year and that would leave you with \$130.00 for Pledge to Mission to complete your program. We have many programs and you have a listing in your packages that you received from the training info. We don't want you to forget them; all the Virginia projects are in need of funds. Do you have fundraisers, pledge services, candle burning services, etc during the year to help with your pledges? I hope you will consider what you can do to help meet the pledge this year.

FYI, We have \$455 received for the 140th Birthday donation to be given at the Annual Conference meeting and the offering for the Boys of Sudan was \$423.84; thank you for your support in those projects.

There are some projects that are no longer under our UMW listing; I will have updated copies and info on how to handle them for the unit treasurers to pick up at the Advent meeting.

Thank you ladies for all the time you take with quarterly remittances.

Karen Bragg

Treasurer, United Methodist Women
Lynchburg District
434-369-4666
vette921t1@embarqmail.com

Education and Interpretation

Hello Ladies,

I hope everyone is doing well now that we're into autumn. This is one of my favorite seasons because you can see the rich beauty of God's creation. I want to **THANK YOU ALL** for the tremendous donations given for the Kingsway Prison Ministry at the Annual Meeting. Once again, you have exceeded my greatest expectations. Anytime I ask for anything you show what being a United Methodist Woman means, by going above & beyond the call. I also want to **THANK YOU** for sending in your Mission Today forms in a timely manner. I got most of them before the deadline so that was very helpful. We had a total of 36 Mission Today Units, 17 Mission Today, 18 Mission Today Silver & 1 Mission Today Gold. Keep up the **GOD WORK!!!** At the Advent Brunch this year, we'll again be collecting for the Park View Mission. This is one of our special missions since it is here in the Lynchburg District. I don't have an updated list but I'm sure they can use plenty of winter items such as: **gloves, hats, scarves, jackets, blankets, etc.** And I'm sure the food pantry can always use **non perishable items, paper products, along with baby items such as diapers, baby wipes, etc.** so I'm sure that anything we bring will be more than welcome. This past year has been a learning experience for me as

the E&I Mission Coordinator for our district. I never realized how much time & dedication our officers give trying to make sure our district is the best that it can be. So let's keep working together & do as we were commanded, **"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungry, and ye gave me food: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when did we thee hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and give thee drink? When did we thee a stranger, and take thee in? or naked, and clothe thee? Or when did we see thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matt. 25:35-40**

Hope to see you at the Advent Brunch!!!
Blessings,

Kim

Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Enjoy a special "Evening at Blackstone"

Open House, Banquet and Musical Program \$45 per person

Open House, Banquet, Musical Program, Spend the Night and Have Breakfast \$70 per person
(\$130 per couple)

Special Musical Program by "Brethren"

Brethren is an ensemble of Christian, male vocalists who join together for one purpose – to glorify God through music. At any given time Brethren may be represented by as few as three or four and as many as twenty-four men, performing a cappella or with accompaniment. Their repertoire encompasses everything from traditional hymns to patriotic standards to contemporary popular music. Brethren performs many different genres, from Southern Gospel to doo-wop to chamber music.

They have released three albums in the first two years of existence and just released their fourth project, "Homeland", in June 2009. Their first recording, "The Hymn Project", was released in September of 2006. This first project is an a cappella recording of some of the favorite hymns of our faith. In October, 2007, a new Christmas album, "Then Christmas Comes", was released. This recording includes an eclectic mix of traditional carols and new arrangements from Mark Hayes, Howard Helvey and Mack Wilberg.

"How Sweet the Sound", their third project, was released in June, 2008 and includes many favorites from their live performances, as well as, traditional sacred anthems, spirituals and gospel arrangements.

Their most recent recording, "Homeland", is a tribute to our country and the freedoms that we have been afforded through the grace of God. Standards such as "God Bless America", "God Bless the USA" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" are featured, as well as, hymn arrangements of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", "The Twenty-Third Psalm" and "The Lord Is My Light".

Send check to: VUMAC, 707 Fourth St, Blackstone, 23824 Call 434-292-5308 for more information.

Membership, Nurture, and Outreach

Ladies, enclosed in this newsletter you will find a 2009 Membership Form to be filled out. This form is just like the one you did for 2008. The conference is requesting that we do this form now so that we may have an accurate count of our membership by the year 2010 and the information on the form will allow the conference to develop and distribute resources that will help us in planning our programs and involvement in mission .

I would appreciate you all cooperating in filling out this form and returning it to me by the due date on the bottom of the form, which is December 8, 2009. I have to have the total report to the Conference by early January so the information can be printed in the Virginia Conference Annual Report.

Please make sure to fill in EVERY SPACE with the corresponding information, if the information does not apply, write NA (Not Applicable) in the

space. As needed, consult with your pastor or church secretary to get the church information. Make sure to distribute copies of this report as noted at the bottom of the form and remember to keep a copy for your records.

Our annual district meeting at Main Street in September was very good. Louise Miller was our speaker and she was great. For your information, we have 55 units, no units disbanded, and we recognized 39 ladies that had passed away since our 2008 meeting. That number was up from 2008. Always sad to have to report any.

Thank you all for all the work that you do for the UMW and thanks for your time taken to fill out the enclosure form and return it to me by December 8, 2009. My phone number is 434-525-4275 if you have any questions. You can call me as late as 11:00 p.m.

Linda Muldrow,

District Coordinator
Membership, Nurture, and Outreach



Social Action – Did We Make a Difference?

As you come to the close of your unit's year, look back. Did your unit decide to take action against some form of social injustice? Did you make a difference?

The VA Conference UMW and the Lynchburg District UMW adopted 3 priorities for 2009, which are listed below. Did you select one, or more to learn about, then act on?

It's never too late, social justice starts one person at a time, on event at a time. Take the time as you ready for your new year to discuss and decide how you can begin or continue on this path of bringing justice to a world where often there is so much injustice.

Economic justice – in this time of economic downturn, the very poorest often suffer the most. What can your Unit do to make a difference?

Immigration - Learn about the issues. What can your Unit do to make a difference?

Environmental issues – our natural resources are not limitless. What can your Unit do to make a difference?

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/>.

This is my last quarter in service as your Social Action Coordinator. It has been my privilege to serve you and in turn serve the Living God! Thank you for your invitations to your unit and to your church. Beginning in 2010, the new Social Action Coordinator will be Iva Scott, 434-384-9231 and her e-mail is jvaw@att.net. If your Unit would like assistance in planning or presenting Social Action issues, I know she will be happy to assist you in anyway possible. I will always be available to help too, stay in touch!

Shalom,

Deb Broadwater