

December 1, 2017



The Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of 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 Beacon

Charleston District UMW Newsletter

From Your President...

How are our preparations coming along?

We are at the time of preparation in this season of Advent for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. How are we going about making these preparations and who are we including? Hopefully our plans include all of God's children just as Jesus included all in his ministry, healings, and miracles. I hope this season finds us caring for each other as gently and tenderly as we would care for a newborn baby. I pray we celebrate the gifts God has given us of each other, of all God's creation, and especially of God's Son, and will rejoice.

The District Officers are working away now in preparing for our 2018 district-wide activities. Officers Training will be held January 13 at Bethlehem-St. James UMC. Presidents, please bring your 2017 unit membership numbers so we can submit them to the National UMW Census during our registration and training times. If there is a particular topic you would like to know more about during the training, please let us know.

The district would like to acknowledge all that Rural Mission does for the Sea Islands people and help support them more in their efforts, especially since they have been hit so hard the past few years by hurricanes and tropical storms. We would like to highlight this National UMW Mission Institute in our activities for 2018. The host church for Officer Training is right down from Rural Mission. I'm sure Rural Mission would appreciate office and kitchen supplies to help keep their mission going. Please consider bringing some of these items to Officers' Training. A list of supplies needed can be found in this issue.

Unfortunately some times while making plans and preparations, things don't work out as we had hoped, so we ask for God's assistance in helping us find a new direction to go. Finding a location for our Day Apart Retreat planned for March 10 has been a little challenging with unexpected obstacles along the way. The increasing expense of trying to hold the event at St. Simons Island, Georgia has become too much for our district to afford. The Retreat Committee is diligently continuing to work on this project.

If your church can host this daylong event during the Lenten season, please contact our Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Angela Pickney-Hall. Once a location is secured, we will be sending out a registration form.

If you were able to go to the SCCUMW Annual Meeting we hosted last year at Bethany UMC, Summerville, you are already familiar with the musician, Michael Lopez. This fantastic pianist will be performing for us again at our Day Apart Retreat. We will also have other talent to share with you that day. Lunch is included if you send in your registration before the event. Please consider bringing along personal hygiene kits or baby diapers that can be taken to Rural Mission afterwards.

I'm sure all the district officers would agree that the best part of all this preparation is looking forward to seeing you! There is always such a positive "energy" when UMW sisters get together. Could it be the Holy Spirit shining through us and among us?

Happy planning and celebrating,

Kathy

From Our Vice President

"But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart, consider what great things he has done for you".

1 Samuel 12:24

Hello My Sisters of the Charleston District,

Ladies, the end of another year is approaching at the speed of lighting with Thanksgiving Day behind us and Christmas approaching, we thank our Almighty God for His many blessings. I pray that all of you and your family had a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving.

The **2018 Officers' Training** will be held on **Saturday, January 13, 2018** at Bethlehem St. James UMC, 2419 Bohicket Road, Johns Island, Novella Smith Larkin, Unit President. Registration and coffee hour begins 9:00 – 9:45am with the general meeting starting at 10:00am, training classes following. I am asking all Cluster Leaders and Nomination Committee members to assist with the registration process, please let me know if you're available. Room accommodations at this time are: 1]Presidents & Cluster Leaders 2]Treasurers 3]Secretaries, Program Resources and MN&O 4]Nominations 5]Vice Presidents, Spiritual Growth, Social Action and Education & Interpretation.

The joint training is designed to give each position the ability to ask questions and share ideas with a diverse assembly allowing the opportunity to learn each position. Each district officer is responsible to compile their **handouts**, evaluation forms will be supplied.

SAVE THE DATE: The **2018 Charleston District Annual Meeting** is **Saturday, September 15, 2018** at Greater St. Paul UMC, 1205 County Line Road, Cross, SC, additional information forthcoming.

The planning committee and I give thanks to the UMW Unit at Knightsville United Methodist Church, Summer-ville and Rev. Robert Harper, Pastor, for their generosity and kindness of hosting this year's Annual District Meeting in September. Thank you Jay Barnes, Unit President and your unit for all your hard work, you accommodated us with love in action. We are fortunate to have such wonderful, thoughtful UMW. May God continue to keep us in the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Women.

I give praises to the Charleston District Planning Committee for their support. Ladies Helen Steiner Rice said: "The greatest need in the world today is love. More love for each other and more love for God above! Great is the Power of might and mind, but only Love can make us Kind. And Only Love can completely fill the hearts of men with Peace and Goodwill!

V. Jeanette Alston, VP

Charleston District UMW



The Charleston District would like to congratulate Rev. Diane Moseley on her retirement as director of Killingsworth Home in Columbia. We deeply thank her for over 40 years of service to women needing a second chance at life and getting it at Killingsworth! Please pray for the Killingsworth Board of Directors as they search for a new director.

Social Action News

Our first quarter event for Social Action is our Legislative Advocacy Day, February 20, 2018. The theme for this year is “Can’t You Hear Their Cry”. The registration form is included in this issue of The Beacon. The registration fee is \$20, which includes material, lunch, nursery and parking. The deadline for registration is February 12, 2018; space is limited to 400 attendees. Make checks payable to SCCUMW and send form and fee to Rebecca W. Eleazer, 5116 Burke Ave, Columbia, SC 29203. **Late registration is \$30; there will be no on-site registration.** There will be four (4) sessions to choose from: Public Education, Poverty, Mass Incarceration, and Domestic Violence. Below is the agenda for the day:

9:00-9:30 Sign In (No-one site Registration); Coffee and Fruit Available
9:30 Welcome and Greetings
10:00 Invocation
10:10 Children’s First of SC—Ms. Sue Williams
Epworth Update—Rev. John E. Holler, Jr., President of Epworth
11:10-12:05 Workshops (Public Education, Poverty, Mass Incarceration, and Domestic Violence)
12:05-1:05 Lunch
1:05-1:50 Guest Speaker (to be announced)
2:00 Tours of Epworth

Best regards,

Martha Sass
Social Action Coordinator
Charleston District
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Upcoming Events & Reminders for 2018

January 12: District Executive Committee Meeting at Bethlehem-St. James UMC, 6:30pm

January 13: Officers’ Training at Bethlehem-St. James UMC, 2419 Bohicket Rd., Johns Island

Registration begins at 9:00am. Bring membership numbers for Census.

Office and kitchen supplies drive for Rural Mission

February 20: Legislative Advocacy Day at Epworth Children’s Home in Columbia at 9:00am

Registration form from *Mission Echo* and fee must be mailed in advance.

(Bad weather makeup day is February 27.)

February 28: Deadline for unit membership numbers to be reported to online National UMW Census

Unitedmethodistwomen.org/census

March 1: SCCUMW College Scholarship application deadline (umcsc.org/umw to download application)

March 10: Day Apart/Retreat – Advanced registration is required. Location and time is to be announced. Lunch will be included. Personal hygiene health care kits/baby diapers drive for

Rural Mission

March 23: National UMW Legacy Fund *Day of Giving*

May 18-20: National UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio

Unit Recognition

The following units earned certificates which were not listed in the 2017 District Annual Meeting Program. We apologize for the lateness of this recognition. We congratulate them for their efforts!

Five Star Units

North Charleston

St. Mark

Five Mission Units

Edisto Island

Jehovah

North Charleston

Mission Today Units

Murray

New Francis Brown

North Charleston

Wesley, Moncks Corner

Racial Justice Diamond Unit

Aldersgate

Centenary, Oakley

Cokesbury

North Charleston

Reading Program Participants

St. Andrews Parish—Letha Henry, Dee McCabe, Barbara Miller

Stewart Chapel—Oleather Smith



National Assembly 2018

Have you registered for the National UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio in May? Go to umwassembly.org. The SCCUMW will be offering a \$300 scholarship to attend (check the December *Mission Echo* for details). If there is enough interest in our district, we might be able to get a bus to leave from here to go to Assembly.



Treasurers!!!

TIME IS FLYING!! YEAR END IS ALMOST HERE!! Please have your fourth quarter remittances to me no later than 12/5/2017. SORRY! Any monies received after that date will go in the first quarter of 2018. IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT ME A PLEDGE CARD FOR 2018, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!! PLEASE, PLEASE, ask your unit to consider raising your pledge for 2018. If I already have your pledge card, you can still increase it. Thank you for all the work you do for your churches. My new and permanent contact information follows:

Ruby Hannah
3015 Audubon Drive
Hanahan, SC 29410-8538

843-860-3302
Rubyeliz44@gmail.com

Wallace Family Life Center Update

To All UMW District Presidents and Units,

I wish I could meet with you personally and thank you for the support you have given me over the last three years as your representative to Wallace Family Life Center. Together we have accomplished much and I leave with an even greater passion for the work that is being done and the lives that are being impacted.

My dream is to see the Center grow and be a shining light in the Wallace community. Unfortunately, as we see the roles of our UMW decline, and greater numbers of us retire and begin to live on fixed incomes, this has had a major impact on the Center's finances, and growing our programs is becoming increasingly difficult. However, I still believe God has a work for us to do and that He will bless our efforts.

The WFLC Board of Directors has devised a plan for a fundraiser and I am attaching a brief explanation. You may call the Center for more details. We want to be able to expand our programs, but as I once heard Rev. Dianne Mosley say, you must have a place. So we cannot ignore that our building is aging and needs many repairs, the least of which is a replacement air conditioner for the large classroom.

We are so fortunate to have two wonderful people overseeing our Center now. Kevin Long, Ex. Director, and Linda Sanders, Program Coordinator. They have not allowed any program to suffer, even though we had to make both positions part time due to finances. The Summer Enrichment program was a great success, the After School program is thriving, Senior citizens meet twice/week, the food pantry is in operation and the Center is used for some community/church meetings.

So why am I writing you? I sincerely hope you will think about ways that together we can fund the Center. Perhaps each of your units could do a fundraiser and/or each member "adopt" a child or grandparent. And put the word out that we need a new bus. We must transport our students from school to the Center, and our senior citizens must be picked up and returned to their homes.

Above all, remember this mission in your prayers. When we ask believing that God will do what He says He will do, there is nothing that can stop us.

Bless you for your caring hearts,
Garvin Gilley

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kathy5339@att.net

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Program Resources—Kelli Walker

843-412-8653; kellicwalker@msn.com

Spiritual Growth—Angela Pickney-

Hall 803-308-0176; pickneyhall@

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Social Action—Martha Sass 843-729-

5939; Martha.sass@us.bosch.com

Edu/Interpretation—Susan Brooks

843-810-3413; brookssusan@comcast.

net

MNO—Denise President 843-442-1595;

dpresidentblue@yahoo.com

Rural Mission Wish

Copy paper – 8.5x11, 8.5x14

3 ring binders

Postage stamps

Large Post-its

Staplers, staples, staple removers

Folding chairs

Paper products

Kitchen dishcloths
and towels

Printer ink (HP Office Jet 4650)

SEJ Quadrennial Meeting will be held April 17-19, 2020 in Mobile, Alabama. They are currently sponsoring an SEJ logo contest. The theme will be "Calling u...to celebrate." Romans 1:6. A biography on the designer needs to be included. The deadline is February 18, 2018 and the design needs to be sent to the Conference UMW President, Marlene Spencer.



Do you have something that you want announced or published in the newsletter?

Please send your information to

cdumwcommunications@yahoo.com

Next Publication: March 1st

Deadline for Submitting Articles: February 15th

Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Hello Ladies, I hope and pray all is well with you and your families and that you all had a bless Thanksgiving. Its about that time of the year again to do our yearly census. I will try my best to send a letter to all the Presidents' and/or MNOs' of your church so we can be on time this year. I do apologize for any mis-communications that took place in getting all your information in on last year. Please work with me to get this process started. I would like to have all the information in by February 28, 2018, so that we can get a head count on those who haven't sent in their information before the MARCH 30, 2018 DEADLINE. Here is my number 843-442-1595(Denise President), along with the census information, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org—here you will find the steps to do the census. If you need help, please don't hesitate to give me a call between 2pm--8pm.

Thanking you in advance,

MNO-Denise President