



# Mission Tapestry

Arlington District United Methodist Women

Vol. XXXVII, No. II

May 2016

## PURPOSE of the 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 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—February, May, August, and November.

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](http://www.ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org)

## District President's Message

### HELP WANTED

The Arlington District UMW wants YOU!  
Have you ever considered serving at this level?  
We are a team of energetic, caring women whose purpose is to serve God by participating in the mission of the United Methodist Women.

Our district's goal is to gather information and to coordinate programs to help our local units learn more about our organization. Come and join us and you will be richly blessed. We work with outstanding Christian women from the Virginia Conference as well as other women in the Arlington and Alexandria districts to bring the best programs for our local units.

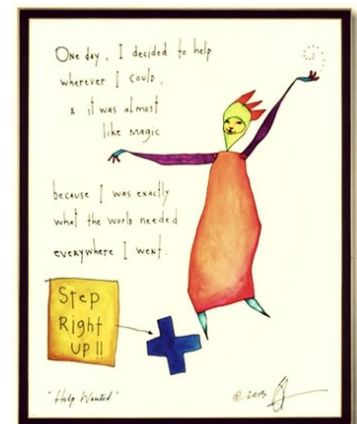
Due to current officers coming to the end of the maximum number of years they can serve, moving away, and accepting additional responsibilities in their home church, we have several positions that are available. Please prayerfully consider accepting one of these positions. We would love to have you on our team. You may contact us, if interested in receiving on-the-job training.

Positions for 2017 are:

- ★ Vice-President, currently filled by Susan Chung
- ★ Treasurer, currently filled by Frances Ellis
- ★ Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation, currently filled by Doris Douglass
- ★ Secretary of Program Resources, currently filled by Gladys Packett
- ★ Nominations Committee Chair and Members

*Angela Sokolowski*  
President, Arlington District UMW

One day, I decided to help wherever I could, and it was almost like magic because I was exactly what the world needed everywhere I went.



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# Secretary

Janet Keener

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Dear Sisters,

What a wonderful weekend at the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Life Retreat at Blackstone! Our scripture for Saturday morning devotions was Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 which reminds us of the various changes in our lives. For UMW, some of us are experiencing changes at the Conference, District, and unit levels.

We know that Blackstone, our Virginia Conference UMW "home away from home," is closing May 7! We shared a Farewell Litany for Blackstone during the Sunday morning worship. The Arlington District UMW is experiencing change with our president, Angie, and her family moving to Charlottesville. My own unit had an officer resign with health and family issues.

Throughout all of these changes, we are reminded that we will move forward with God's love and care. Using the response of the Farewell Litany, we remember "we give you thanks and praise, O God."

God Bless,

*Janet*

janet\_keener@cox.net

703-281-7685

# Treasurer

**Frances Ellis**

Another year is winding down for the summer. As we relax this summer, use your extra time to prepare for the fall and our annual meeting.

Encourage women in your unit to become Rainbow Givers,  
Plan your Candle Burning service,  
Review your Living Into Our Purpose form and see which items you can complete before September,  
Read a book a week from the UMW reading list,  
Attend Mission Encounter in July,  
Make a list (and keep it updated) of your blessings,  
Explore the UnitedMethodistWomen.org website for a wealth of information,  
Personally invite a woman a week to attend UMW events,  
Send in your 2nd quarter pledge by June 15,  
Prayerfully consider becoming a District officer.

Frances Ellis  
District Treasurer  
2933 Fox Mill Road  
Oak Hill, VA 20171  
fwellis@aol.com  
703-476-1127



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



# Membership Nurture & Outreach

Katy White

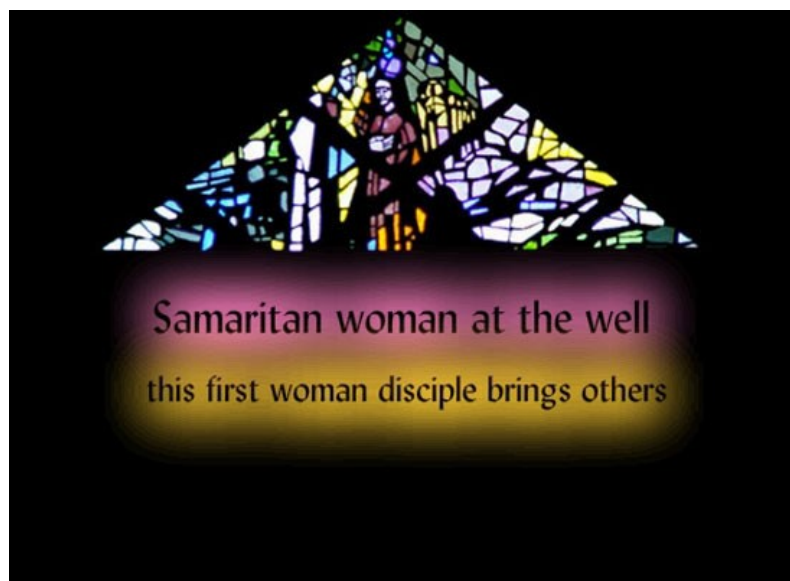
## Some thoughts from our sisters in the Western North Carolina UMW

The Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:4-42 boldly stepped out of her comfort zone to invite her community to Christ. We, too, must reach outside our comfortable group of friends to invite others to join us in mission as United Methodist Women. Here we find a place to nurture faith, experience community and put faith hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth. (Adapted from United Methodist Women Handbook 2013-2016.)

Here are a few membership tips from Jatana Royster, Western North Carolina conference Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach:

- ◆ You do not have to be a United Methodist to be a member of United Methodist Women.
- ◆ It can take at least five invitations for someone to accept when you invite them to see what United Methodist Women is all about!
- ◆ Nurture your current membership while inviting others to join you on our journey.
- ◆ What do you love about UMW? TELL SOMEONE!!
- ◆ Participate in District and Conference events....you will learn, grow spiritually, and be a part of a creative, supportive fellowship of women whose focus is mission with women, children and youth.
- ◆ Invite all women of your church to join you!
- ◆ Do not assume everyone understands what we mean when we say things like: Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, Unit Meeting, Circle/Group Meeting, Gift to Mission, Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, etc.

*Katy*



# Spiritual Growth

Marjorie Long-Brown

## “The Bitter and The Sweet”

My mom used to say, “We’ve got to take the bitter with the sweet” whenever someone seemed to have a spell of bad luck. The Arlington District UMW experienced the sweetness of meeting God on the mountain at our Spiritual Life Retreat in March in Front Royal. Under the guidance of Reverend Melissa Porter-Miller we explored the theme, “Who Are You? Whose Are You?” We were assured that in spite of the derogatory labels that the world attaches to us, we are children of God and precious in His sight. Reverend Porter-Miller made use of objects from nature as well as electronic media. The event was well-attended and well-received. Everyone felt that “Sweet, Sweet Spirit.”

Unfortunately, the sweetness lost its taste as we headed to Blackstone for the final Conference Spiritual Life Retreat. There were many teary eyes as we contemplated our final experience at our beloved Blackstone. Reverend Kathleen Royston injected some sweetness as she lead us in exploring “Slow Spiritual Soul Food.” Reverend Royston, a self-confessed “foodie,” showed us how the preparation and consumption of food permeates every aspect of our lives, including our spiritual lives. Certain dishes conjure up certain events in our lives.

So there will be no more sunrise vespers at the cross, no more ice cream socials, and no more early morning walks. I’ll even miss that snarling German Shepherd who greeted me each time I walked around the block.

Blackstone is not really gone; we will carry it in our hearts.

Yours in Christ,  
Marjorie Long-Brown



The story can be so, so sad, but (the message is) you have to take the bitter with the sweet, the good with the bad, and food can make things a little bit better.

# Social Action

Lisa George

## ALEXANDRIA/ARLINGTON BI-DISTRICT DAY APART LOVING THE OTHER: A PROGRAM ON RACIAL JUSTICE

### WHAT IS RACISM?

What is racism? It is the use of power to discriminate through institutions and structures of society. In other words – deny access to education, employment, housing, social services and other rights. Racism perpetuates the economic, political and social power of one group over another group.

Where is racism? Racism is evident in many areas. A person may be in relationships that are destructive, exploiting or in conflict. Some groups are banned from certain decision-making areas. Some groups are banned from basic human rights. One group sets the “norm” for everyone. The values pursued reflect a rejection of difference and diversity.

So, what is Racial Justice?

Racial Justice is a biblical issue – read Exodus 1:8-14.

Racial Justice is a community issue. Look at changes in your community, your county, your state, the nation. There are racial/ethnic tensions everywhere. Stand up for Racial Justice as a part of your spiritual practice.

Racial Justice is a public policy issue. This involves learning about the laws that affect immigrants, racial/ethnic minorities, refugees, and the poor. What are the local public education policies? How about Social Services? Or employment? Or worship? Stand up and exercise your power to ensure equal and basic rights for all. Write letters to Congress, make phone calls, and get involved in your area. There is so much to change on all levels. At future events I will have available the League of Women Voters of VA Virginia’s General Assembly Legislative Directory.

Lisa George  
ADUMW Social Action Coordinator  
[lgeorge7@cox.net](mailto:lgeorge7@cox.net)  
7401 Eastmoreland Road #810  
Annandale, VA 22003



## Mission Education & Interpretation Doris Douglass

In April of 2014, in Chibok, Nigeria 276 schoolgirls were kidnapped by the terrorist group Boko Haram. They were between the ages of 15 to 18 and became part of a total of over 2,000 girls and women taken by Boko Haram. Some of the girls have been found and returned to their families but over 200 are still missing. A few weeks ago we saw mothers and fathers poring over a video to see if their daughter was in it. So desperate for any news, just to see them. In April it was two years with little, mostly no information.

We know women and girls are the most vulnerable group to trafficking. Boko Haram has been trafficking unmarried girls and women to the groups established territories in north-east Nigeria. They are subject to forced marriage, forced labor and sexual assault. Their plan is to create an Islamic state and these girls are part of the building blocks of that plan.

The movement to “Bring Back Our Girls” was started in 2014, they hold marches, rallies and advocate for the girls return. The United States has pledged to send military trainers to help the Nigerian army with intelligence gathering. Nigerian women are very involved and have led the call to return the girls. Former minister of education Obiageli Ezekwesili, catalyzed the Bring Back Our Girls movement into a national and international campaign. She has since become a spokeswoman for the Chibok girls. First Lady Michelle Obama and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai have also helped put pressure on the international community to raise public awareness and make it a global campaign.

We cannot and should not forget these girls. They need our prayers and our actions. You can learn more by going to the United Methodist Women website and click on Action Alerts, at the bottom, then on the right side of the screen, click, Bring Back Our Girls, Bring Back Peace. The above is from that Action Alert.

Blessings  
Doris Douglass  
7213 Vellex Lane  
Annandale, VA 22003  
DorisDouglass@msn.com



## Program Resources

Gladys Packett

# Change is Coming Change is Coming

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17 ESV*

How many times have you heard that “change is coming?” Probably more times than you care to hear it, right? Well, I must let you know that change is coming to the UMW Reading Program. As we are aware, with the new technology, change is occurring all around us on a daily basis and therefore we must take a closer look at the way we handle the UMW Reading Program.

Recently, I received an email from Brenda Thompson, Reading Program Specialist letting us know of the following concerns:

- ◆ The current process is outdated and unsustainable
- ◆ Resources are available from more sources now than when this program was created (before the internet).
- ◆ The availability of current reading list books (in inventory but out on consignment)
- ◆ Storage at PBD of large quantities of older (but still current) titles

As you know, last year there were changes made to the consignment ordering process. The new process only allowed us to order two books of each title from the current reading program only. (2015-2016) This created two problems - one, we could not get enough books to sell due to low inventory and two, it did not allow us to order books from older titles from previous years. This has created a large inventory of unsold books, thus creating storage concerns.

Now more than ever, we understand that our readers have more choices of places where they can purchase the books. More and more, they are opting to buy them at their book store, on-line, or are using E-Readers. This means that in most cases the books are not being purchased from the UMW Mission Resources.

Therefore, we feel that the consignment process for Reading Program titles will eventually be phased out and replaced with a reading list of titles that members will have the option to purchase either electronically or in paper, but not from UMW Mission Resources.

So, stay tuned for the changes to the 2016-2017 Reading Program. In any event, the “Changes” will be to improve the effectiveness of the program so that readers as well as the UMW can benefit from it.

For now, and the foreseeable future, resources produced by United Methodist Women such as mission studies, prayer calendar, program book, etc., would continue to be available on consignment.

In His service,  
Gladys Packett  
Secretary of Program Resources  
[gpackett@verizon.net](mailto:gpackett@verizon.net)





# Arlington District United Methodist Women 2016/17 Calendar

## **PURPOSE** of the 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.

Event	Date
Mission Encounter @ Randolph-Macon College	July 29-31
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report due.</b>	<b>September 15</b>
Conference Young Women's Event @ Bridgewater UMC	September 16-17
<b>Arlington District UMW Annual Meeting @ Wesley UMC</b>	<b>September 24</b>
VA Conference UMW 44 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting @	October 29-30
<b>Arlington District UMW Mini-Mission Encounter @</b>	<b>November 12</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report Due</b>	<b>December 15</b>
<b>Arlington District UMW Training Day @</b>	<b>January</b>
UM Day @ General Assembly	February 2, 2017
<b>Arlington District Spiritual Life Retreat @</b>	<b>March 10-11, 2017</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report Due</b>	<b>March 15, 2017</b>
<b>Arlington District Spring Prayer Breakfast @</b>	<b>April 22, 2017</b>
VA Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat @	May 5-7, 2017
<b>Bi-District UMW Day Apart @</b>	<b>May 20, 2017</b>
UMW Day @ Ferrum College	June 3, 2017
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report Due</b>	<b>June 15, 2017</b>
VA Annual Conference @ Hampton	June 16-18, 2017
UMW Breakfast @ Conference	June 17, 2017
Mission Encounter	July 28-30, 2017
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report due</b>	<b>September 15</b>
VA Conference Young Women's Event @	September 15-16, 2017
VA Conference 45 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting @	October 28-29, 2017
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter treasurer's Report Due</b>	<b>December 15, 2017</b>

## Arlington District United Methodist Women Officers for 2016

### **ELECTED OFFICERS**

#### President

Angela Sokolowski  
808 Potomac Ridge Court  
Sterling, VA 20164-1368  
703-421-6445  
TheSokos@mac.com

#### Vice President

Susan Chung  
851 N. Glebe Road, Apt. 1520  
Arlington, VA 22203  
202-731-6092  
SusanChung1122@gmail.com

#### Secretary

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

#### Treasurer

Frances Ellis  
2933 Fox Mill Road  
Oak Hill, VA 20171-1527  
703-476-1127  
fwellis@aol.com

### **MISSION COORDINATORS**

#### Education and Interpretation

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

#### Social Action

Lisa George  
7401 Eastmoreland Rd #810  
Annandale, VA 22003  
703-623-8071  
LGeorge7@cox.net

#### Membership Nurture and Outreach

Katy White  
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South Riding, VA 20152  
804-937-5289  
Katy.H.White@gmail.com

#### Spiritual Growth

Marjorie Long-Brown  
5575 Seminary Road #313  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3556  
703-575-8353  
marjol@fastmail.fm

#### Secretary for Program Resources

Gladys Packett  
879 N. Jacksonville Street  
Arlington, VA 22205-1323  
703-522-0341  
gpackett@verizon.net

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

*Vacant at this time*

### **APPOINTED OFFICERS**

#### Editor of the Tapestry

Frances Ellis  
2933 Fox Mill Road  
Oak Hill, VA 20171-1527  
703-476-1127  
[fwellis@aol.com](mailto:fwellis@aol.com)



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

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

# mission encounter

Will be held from 10 a.m. on **July 29** to noon on **July 31** at **Randolph Macon College** in Ashland, VA

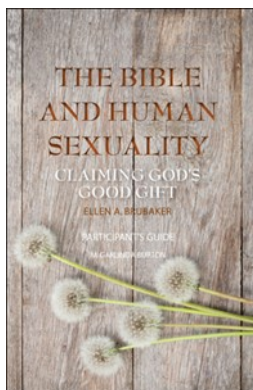
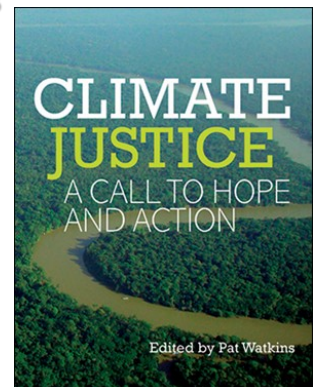
Register @ [www.vaumw.com/events/mission-encounter/](http://www.vaumw.com/events/mission-encounter/)

Early Bird Registration ends June 30

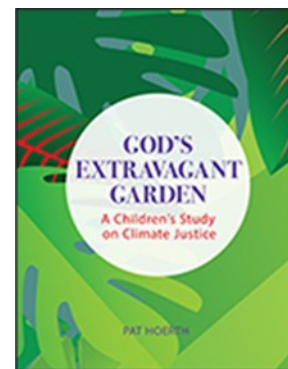


**Geographic Study**  
**Latin America: People & Faith**  
Leader: Rev. Dr. Don Edwards

**Issue Study Leaders**  
Rev. Pat Watkins  
Rev. Dottie Yunger  
Rev. Eugene Kim



**Spiritual Growth Study**  
**The Bible and Human Sexuality**  
Leaders  
Rev. Dr. Rob Vaughn  
Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher  
Prof. Esther Barkat



**Children's Study**  
**God's Extravagant Garden**  
Leader: Judy Fender

## Young Women's Retreat September 16-17, 2016



### Rev. Beth Anderson

Retreat leader will be the Rev. Beth Anderson, an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church. Beth's background includes being a US-2 missionary for the General Board of Global Ministries, graduating from Birmingham-Southern College and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Beth has led women's retreats in the past and looks forward to this retreat for young women. She is married to Kevin Anderson and has two daughters.



*Finding Balance: Living in  
God's Creation  
in a World  
of Chaos*

Event held at Bridgewater United Methodist Church in  
Bridgewater, VA

(Convenient to Interstate 81 between Harrisonburg and  
Staunton)

Lodging will be at local hotel 10 minutes from church

**VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**"Finding Balance: Living in God's Creation in a World of Chaos"**  
September 16-17, 2016

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
Roommate(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to share a bed? Y or N  
Any special diet needs? \_\_\_\_\_  
Please check ALL that apply to you: 18-22 \_\_\_\_\_ 23-29 \_\_\_\_\_  
30-35 \_\_\_\_\_ 36-40 \_\_\_\_\_ First Time \_\_\_\_\_ Night Owl \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK CHOICE OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday evening (Dinner) – Saturday Breakfast & Lunch  
(Adult): \$75.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Day Retreater: \$25.00 – includes all meals (no lodging)

TOTAL REMITTED \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check payable to: **Virginia Conference United Methodist Women**  
and send your registration form and check for the total amount to:

**Joyce Winston**

2411 E. Pembroke Ave.  
Hampton, VA 23664-1243  
Phone: 757-851-6897

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
**August 15, 2016**

**After 8/15, call or email Joyce  
for room availability**

email: [BUCKROW@aol.com](mailto:BUCKROW@aol.com)

The event starts with dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Registration will be open at 5:00 p.m. The event ends on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Please bring your Bible, pencil/pen, alarm clock, and favorite snacks (to share). Drinks will be provided. The schedule below is tentative and therefore subject to change.

**Tentative Schedule**

**FRIDAY**

5:00-6:30 p.m. Check into hotel/registration  
7:00 p.m. Dinner at the church  
7:45-9:15 p.m. Group Gathering I  
9:15-10:00 p.m. Fellowship and Fun, Depart for hotel

**SATURDAY**

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at the church  
9:15-12:00 p.m. Group Gathering II, Small groups, etc.  
12:15 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:15-2:45 p.m. Group Gathering III, Small groups, etc.  
3:00-4:00 p.m. Closing/Worship/Communion

This is an event hosted by the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women, but is for all young women ages 18 to 40. You do not have to be a member of UMW to attend.

Scholarships may be available – contact your District UMW President or email [buckrow@aol.com](mailto:buckrow@aol.com) or [dwwrawley@msn.com](mailto:dwwrawley@msn.com)  
Registration deadline is **EARLY** (August 15) because of hotel holding a block of rooms for our group. Any extra rooms will be released after August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please help us out by adhering to the deadline. Hotel rooms are two queen beds.

All activities will be held at Bridgewater UMC.

Your registration will be confirmed by email (please provide email address on form). Directions to hotel and church will be provided at this time.