



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

December 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2023 has been a GREAT YEAR. Each month there was an activity including these: United Methodist Day at General Assembly in Richmond, Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, WUWF Blood Drive, UWF Sunday, Hands on Mission, Candle Burning, Membership Event, Installation Service, and Fall Festival. What an active group of women! As the year is ending, mission funds of \$13,500 are being distributed to local and global organizations: \$1,000 to Agape Children's Center, Carolina Honduras Women's Education, Good Shepherd School (Glenmont UMC), Grove Christian Outreach, Meals on Wheels, Natasha's House, Project Transformation DC, Red Bird Mission and UMCOR Global Ministries-Ukraine; \$500 to ARC of Greater Williamsburg, Avalon, WUMC Quilt Ministry, Dream Catchers, FISH, House of Mercy, Wesley Community Service Center, and Wesley Foundation Food Pantry; \$250 to Afghan Family Rasuli and \$250 to Afghan Family Sayeed. The members of the Board reflected on these missions which assist women, children, and youth.

Remember that the greenery fundraiser continues until December 10. Orders can be placed electronically or by telephone. Members of WUWF will be at the table in the atrium on Sundays, assisting with these orders from Lynch Creek Farms. WUWF benefits by earning 15% of the total proceeds.

Personally, I am now looking forward to another year as President, working with and enjoying the fellowship of serving with like-minded ladies who are interested in mission.

Linda

INSTALLATION SERVICE

The Fifth General Meeting & Installation Service, held on November 19, was an afternoon of inspiration and fellowship. 37 people participated, in person and via Zoom. The theme of the meeting was "He Is the Wind Beneath My Wings;" replete with butterflies.

Together, we were able to celebrate achievements, thank out-going leaders, remember sisters we have lost (Sharon Sams, Barbara Hamson, Mary Cavallo), and empower new leadership for the upcoming year. The highlight of the event was the presentation of special recognition awards to Melody Nichols and Gayle Justice for their extraordinary dedication of service to our church and community. Pastor Meghan graced the occasion by officiating the swearing-in ceremony of the new officers.



CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott had 7 members and 1 guest attending on November 14. Doris McElfresh gave the program about Geraldine Ferraro. Donations collected for the Salvation Army will be given to them in early December.

Heritage met on November 7 with 11 ladies in attendance including new member Karen Red. Carolyn Munro presented the program about lace making. She shared a wonderful power point and had samples of her beautiful work. Following the meeting several ladies had lunch together at Food for Thought!

Friendship met November 14 with 11 present. Program speaker was Josh Clayton, WUMC Media Specialist and Technology Assistant, who not only shared about the development of his creative video clips and recordings, but how this brings WUMC into the age of social media presence on the internet. Because many in the group do not access the internet often, Josh showed a collection of 2023 WUMC videos. Laughter filled the room. After a short business program, the group prepared Thanksgiving baskets to be delivered to special friends.



Preparing Thanksgiving baskets

Ruth Simpson met on November 1 with 9 present. Speaker Zach Griggs, WUMC Family Ministry Coordinator, presented an interesting program in which he spoke about his family and the spiritual journey that led him to begin his studies to enter the ministry. He began the program by asking the group to think about when in life each first felt Jesus was with them. He then shared when he experienced that feeling and how it led to what he is doing today. The group enjoyed getting to know the newest member of the church staff team.

Sisters in Grace met on November 14 with 17 members and 2 guests present. After the devotion and Response moment, members turned in their World Thank monies and discussed the winter shelter to be held from January 14-21. Suggestions for allocation of mission monies were decided upon and forwarded to the Board. Connie Bland shared updates on the Reading Program and noted that Cindy Banek will be coordinating the Book Club 2024. Recommendations for a new Golden Friend were shared and Wendy Geiger will follow up. Decision was made to contribute monies/gifts to a family in need as recommended by Pastor Meghan. Gayle Justice led a program on giving thanks challenging the members with famous quotes, Bible verses, a member gratitude "Guess Who" game and gifting the members with notecards to send out to those who have been a blessing in their lives this year and years past.

Sisters in Mission met November 14 with 10 members attending. Laura Viancour read a devotion from the Upper Room, reminding all to step away from trying to be in control by list-making, and let God lead the daily living. Deborah Hewitt shared a Mission Moment on the Season of Giving, reminding that all are Extensions of God's Love. For the program, the group engaged in a hands-on project of writing personal Christmas greetings to residents at Edgeworth and Windsor Meade Memory Care.



Writing personal notes

WORLD THANK OFFERING

Christmas will be here soon. Better get those cookies made. Drop a quarter into the World Thank Offering container for every different recipe used to bake those delights. This month begins the 2024 contributions.



The next gathering will be held Monday, January 8, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The book to be discussed will be **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate, in the Nurturing for Community category from the 2022 catalog.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Concern and healing prayers for Fran Lane, Elane Strange, Virginia Morgan, Vivian Golding, Becky Morgan, Ann Harrison, and Peggy Soulen. Also pray for Sharon Short and her husband both recuperating from surgeries, for Margie Gill at home with Harold. Prayers are with Jane Bills and Nancy Mohn as they leave Williamsburg to move to a retirement community nearer family in New Jersey and with Carolyn Mershon who recently moved to assisted living in Gloucester.