



# THE UMW APPALACHIAN DISTRICT NEWS

1st Quarter 2021

## President's Message:



Dear Sisters in Christ!

I greet you in love on this day! As we begin the year 2021, we rejoice in God's goodness and presence in our lives. Happy New Year! Note the newsletter dates and information for our Conference, District and Local UMW units. Reach out to your District Nurturing Partner today! Do not delay in taking this step forward in keeping us ***Knitted Together for God's Good Work***. Be sure your unit subscribes to ***Response*** magazine and that you have a Prayer Calendar. Log onto our [wncumw.org](http://wncumw.org) and our Appalachian District at [www.appumw.com](http://www.appumw.com). Join online *Faith Talks* with Jennifer Farmer and *Voices from the Fields* with the missionaries that we support. Meet with your local units as quarantine and staying safe continues to be a priority. Here is a list of ideas. If you need help with any of them, just give me a call.

1. Meet in an open space with room to spread out, one person per table and masks.
2. Have a Zoom meeting.
3. Have a conference call.
4. Send a program through the mail.
5. Send an email agenda and have members respond to the email.
6. When the weather is nice, meet outside, at a safe distance with masks.

Also, some units have had UMW Sundays and other special events on line.



Whatever your means of doing so, stay connected and knitted together.

I look forward to seeing you at our Virtual Zoom Spiritual Renewal Gathering on Saturday, March 20th and at our online Mission Study on *150 Years of United Methodist Women* on Saturday, April 24th and Sunday, April 25th from 2 - 4:30 PM.

Remember that the mission study has a 4-hour study requirement.

Also, we would like to focus on your unit this year. Each newsletter will highlight local unit events and members. Please send interesting articles or photos to me or Denise Harris for us to share with others. Thank you.

Prayers, peace, love and blessings,  
Sherry Summerlin, Appalachian District President  
(828)728-4936 H (828)234-0850 C  
[sherrysummer@charter.net](mailto:sherrysummer@charter.net)



## Vice-President:



Greetings and Happy New Year! We will begin 2021 with our plates filled with more Missions than ever before. With Corvid-19 rising, there are a lot of problems going on, such as: loss of jobs, tenants having problems making rent payments, no money for food and families being put out on the streets,

Are we ready to handle this situation? United Methodist Women, let's gear up to help those in need and to get them back on their feet. Working together we know a change is going to come.

Please put these dates for the New Year (2021), on your calendar, and join us. Other dates will follow in the next newsletter. First three dates/meetings will be **Virtual**:

- **Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
Spiritual Renewal Gathering, 10am—11am  
**Speaker:** Sandra Williamson, Northern Piedmont District President  
**Hands on Mission:** Bethlehem Center
- **Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Mission Study (2:00 pm - 4:30 PM each day)  
**Speaker:** Rev. Lisa Beth White.  
**Hands on Mission:** Hygiene Kits and School Supplies.

All Unit Presidents, please make sure all your members are aware of these dates and times. If you have any questions feel free to contact: President: Sherry Summerlin @ (828) 728-4936 or myself: Annette Echard @ 828-754-5526. Thanks each and every one for “**All**” you do. Love and Blessings,  
Annette Echard, Appalachian District Vice President

## Spiritual Growth:



Greetings fellow UMW Sisters,

We have said good-bye to another year and what a year it was! We can all safely say that 2020 was a tough year. The New Year, 2021, may be starting out a little better, however we are still distancing, sanitizing, for the most part we're staying home and we are still wearing our masks. But so far this year, COVID-19 has not gotten us completely down because United Methodist Women are **STRONG** and this past year, with all its ups and downs, has proved that to be true for we are still carrying on our Mission work for God.

How did your unit cope with all the challenges of 2020? We at Mt. Bethel were able to meet regularly from June to December. Those who chose to attend found that our sanctuary was large enough to safely distance ourselves and we wore our masks. We started back in June with a Bible Study on Mark and ended the year with a Christmas Tea. Even though we had to cancel some of our traditional projects and our attendance was down due to the pandemic, we still enjoyed our programs and fellowship while staying safe. Our Christmas Tea allowed us to come together and "let our hair down a bit" while still practicing the safety rules. The program for the evening was titled "The Twelve Blessings of Christmas" which reminded us that even though challenges and changes occur, Christmas is a time to reflect on the many God given blessings we have been given through the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is my hope that your units were also able to find safe ways to meet through the challenges of this past year.

As the new year begins for the Appalachian District, let's join together on March 20, 2021 at 10am for a **VIRTUAL** Spiritual Renewal Gathering (formerly the Prayer Breakfast). Sandra Williams from the Northern Piedmont District will be our speaker. We will also have a Memorial Service for our beloved sisters who passed away in 2019 and 2020. If you will, please let me know the names of those to be remembered during the service. You can email me at [jlsipe09@gmail.com](mailto:jlsipe09@gmail.com) or call me at 828-612-1519. Thank you in advance for your help. So mark your calendars for March 20, 2021 at 10am for a time of Spiritual Renewal.

In closing let me share with you what Kenneth Claar said in the Nov/Dec issue of the Upper Room. He says "I cannot recover the joys of the past, but I can have New Joys with God in the present." To me that sounds like a good theme for this New Year. Stay safe, stay strong, wear your masks and pray that 2021 will be a year of recovery and **HOPE**.

Blessings from your Spiritual Growth Coordinator,  
Judy Sipe



## Nominations:

Happy New Year Ladies; last year was a different year with many unexpected challenges. I am ready and hopeful for a new year. I just read an email from WNCC United Methodist Women E-News 20210101 - Blessed New Year 2021 with the poem “The Work of Christmas” composed by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.*

This poem inspires me and reminds me that our work as United Methodist Women really is the true work of Christmas. Also, in the E-News email was the theme for A Call to Prayer and Self Denial 2021 - “She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference.” I challenge you to come pray, learn and offer your gifts that will make a real change in the lives of women, children and youth around the world. Look around you for other women who could share their gifts with us and encourage them to join us in our Work of Christmas.

We do still have one District Coordinator position open, Membership Nurture & Outreach. What does she do? She attends virtually/in-person the District Executive Board meetings, writes a brief article on membership for the four District newsletters, keeps a tally of the District team’s contacts with local units and unit’s membership information and suggests ideas for membership. Please prayerfully consider serving in this important coordinator position. If you feel led to serve, please contact Brenda Kimberlin at [bkimberlin@caldwellschools.com](mailto:bkimberlin@caldwellschools.com) or Penny Ledbetter at [pennygrietje@gmail.com](mailto:pennygrietje@gmail.com). Pray and listen for how God is calling you to serve.

Blessings,  
Penny Ledbetter  
Brenda Kimberlin  
Nominations Co-Chairs

## Mission Education and Interpretation:



Welcome to 2021! I am excited to start this New Year and excited to start in this new position as the Appalachian District ME&I Coordinator. 2020 was a difficult year for collecting and distributing mission supplies since most of our conference and district functions were canceled or virtual, but we did deliver some school and cleaning supplies to the Winston Salem Bethlehem Center, clothing for Project Agape to the Mission Resource Center (MRC) and 47 school kits and 45 hygiene kits to the MRC. Thank you to those units that supported our Hands on Missions in 2020. Our Hands on Mission for the District ‘virtual’ Spiritual Renewal Gathering will be Bethlehem Center school and cleaning supplies and for the District ‘virtual’ Mission Study will be UMCOR School Kits and Hygiene Kits. As we will be having many virtual events again in 2021, we are working to develop a district plan for Hands on Mission “drop off” locations – Mission needs are still very much alive and very much a purpose of UMW.

At our 2020 District Annual meeting, we celebrated 16 Mission Today units. I would like to challenge each Appalachian District unit to make a difference and strive to become a Mission Today Unit in 2021. Why? Becoming a Mission Today unit energizes United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action; increases contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes; encourages the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women; and expands concepts of mission, including social justice as mission. There are three levels of Mission Today (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) and units achieve these levels by completing a designated number of specific criteria on the Mission Today requirements; you can find the requirements listed on the WNCC UMW website (<https://wnccumw.org/missiontoday>).

Lastly, I would like to encourage UMW members to attend our Appalachian District Mission Study, **Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission**, via Zoom on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Our study leader, Rev. Lisa Beth White, will teach us about women who established vibrant societies to support mission. (See the Mission Study flyer on page 8.) Your unit can satisfy Mission Today criteria #4 by individuals attending this study and the unit taking an action based on this study or giving a Gift to Mission. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding UMW Missions.

Jan Taylor, 336-468-0313/[j.kay.tay@gmail.com](mailto:j.kay.tay@gmail.com)

## Program Resources:



It seems like we are all still staying at home and have time to read more, so let's all raise awareness of our mission issues by telling others about our books. I belong to a book club that always reported on the books we read. Now, we post these reviews online, that is one way to raise that awareness that I mentioned.

Many of our books are a really good read. The youth books and children's books are a wonderful way to share with our family and friends. My UMW unit and book club were very interested in the Maya Angelo book, "Rise". A few years ago, I entered an art contest to show our impression of Maya Angelo through art. I was able to take that art to share along with the book.

The youth book, "Pushout" has now been made into a documentary. This book brings to reality the social injustice that our young girls of color have to put up with every day. "Sulwe" is a children's book that also carries a great message of how race and the color of skin affects children.

So, Read, read, read - the many messages of mission...

Then pray, pray, pray - about those missions...

and then share, share, share - the message with all! That's how we can be more Christ-like!

Micki Earp, District Program Resource coordinator

## Membership – Nurture – Outreach:

As of printing, we are still in search of an MNO for our district. Until someone feels led to take this on for us, I will be filling in, so remember to send me your visits, and membership numbers.

As we begin a new year, let us remember to trust in the Lord, each other, and our church families.

Until we can meet again, Denise Harris, Appalachian District

(704) 437-2794

[denise.harris2105@gmail.com](mailto:denise.harris2105@gmail.com)

## Treasurer:



Happy New Year and greetings to all Local Unit UMW Treasurers!

As I reflect back on the year 2020, I realize I have received many blessings (many in disguise!). I had more time to read, study and seriously think about the Word of God and what His Word means not only to me, but also for all of my brother and sisters in Christ. I was forced to slow down with "sheltering in place" and "social distancing." I got a lot of things done that I had put off doing because I had more time. Did I have more hours in the day? NO, but maybe I used the same amount of hours more wisely.

As the pandemic continues to rage in our world, we as United Methodist Women must continue our support of women, children, and youth through Mission Giving. Our giving has provided food, shelter, medical treatment and educational opportunities for many who otherwise would not have received these needs in 2020 and continues in 2021.

If you have not sent in the blue "Pledge and Officer Information Form - 2021," it is not too late. I need this information to update the district records to make sure all information will go to the correct person(s) and record your unit's pledge for 2021.. Also, if you have not sent in the form listing all Gift to Mission Honorees, Special Mission Recognition (pin) recipients, and Gifts in Memory for 2020, please mail or e:mail to me by February 1, 2021. This information is needed to complete the district records and to include in the District Annual Meeting booklet.

The 2021 Mission Giving quarters are as follows: 1st Quarter: December 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021

2nd Quarter: March 1, 2021 - May 31, 2021

3rd Quarter: June 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021

4th Quarter: September 1, 2021 - November 30, 2021

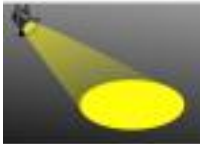
All Local Unit Treasurers will receive a letter from me at the first of the month before the end of the Mission quarter. These letters will be mailed by February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. Please, I urge you to read these letters; you will find a lot of important information in these letters to help you fulfill your role as your Unit Treasurer. The role of the Local Unit Treasurer is very important as

you can help your unit understand why Mission Giving is needed to help carry out the PURPOSE OF UMW. You are responsible for making deposits and payments from your local unit's UMW checking account, keeping accurate records of these transactions, and reporting the financial activity to your unit. You are responsible for remitting all funds (pledges, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission cards, and Gift in Memory cards) to the Appalachian District Treasurer. All checks should be made payable to **Appalachian District UMW Treasurer**. ALL checks must be sent with a Remittance Form. A blank remittance form will be mailed with the 1st Quarter letter. My role for the Appalachian District as Treasurer, is to receive ALL Mission Giving funds, keep the financial records, and channel the funds to the Conference Treasurer.

Hope to see many of you virtually for our District Spiritual Renewal Gathering (Prayer Breakfast) and Mission Study. More information is found in this newsletter.

If you have any question and/or concerns, or need more information about UMW giving to share at your meetings, please let me know. You may e:mail, call or TXT.

In His Service,  
Nancy Johnson, District Treasurer  
nananurse85@charter.net  
828-612-6142



## Spotlight on Mt. Bethel UMW

**Mt. Bethel had a Christmas Tea...Santa, President Judy Sipe, is pictured . Social distancing was observed. Masks were used. Gifts were exchanged and stuffed animals were brought for the Alexander County Sheriff's Department to give to children. Send us a spotlight for your unit.**



## Secretary:



Happy New Year! I am so excited to be the secretary of the AP district -the greatest district in the WNCC. I live in the Baton Community of Caldwell County. I attend Baton UMC and I am secretary of our local unit. One thing I have learned during the years as secretary is that keeping accurate minutes, record attendance and being a custodial of all records, official papers, and correspondence is an important job. Of course all jobs concerning the work of the Lord is important. We are keeping records of history. I remember what my Dad would ask me growing up "How do you know where you are going if you do not know where you have been". That has stuck with me and I guess has caused me to love history. All you local unit secretaries YOU are important. If I can assist in any way please do not hesitate to contact me. Also I need you to hold me accountable!!

Blessings, Janice Chester



## Social Action:

Do you ever wonder what we mean by *Just Energy For All*?

Then join us at 3:00 pm EST on Feb 22, March 8 and March 22, 2021, to learn more about the *why* and *what* of United Methodist Women's Just Energy for All campaign, as well as *how* your United Methodist Women unit, district or conference can be involved. These 90-minute webinars will include presentations, breakout sessions, and opportunities to connect with other UMW members and people of faith. You don't need to be a United Methodist Women member to join us—all are welcome! You register at [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Sherry H. Mabry

## Legacy Fund:

### One of the Blessings of My Life for which I am Most Thankful... United Methodist Women

As I write this, it is actually Thanksgiving Day, and one of the blessings of my life for which I am most thankful is United Methodist Women and my part in it. I have just read and reread [Nancy Reigel's wonderful letter](#) in which she stressed that we are each "doing something" "to bring healing and hope" to the world through our giving to the World Thank Offering. I would like to add by our giving to the [Legacy Fund as Legacy Builders](#).



Did you read [Christi Campos' article about Legacy Builders on page 16 of the November/December response](#)? If you haven't read it, please do. I wonder if your first reaction to the article was the same as mine, that Christi was too enthusiastic in her praise of my recruiting new Legacy Builders. That's what I thought until my Program Advisory Group roommate from South Dakota called to congratulate me. We talked for a few minutes about our families and things, and then I asked "How many Builders have you recruited?" There was silence. Then she said "Myself". I said "You mean you are the only one?" She said "Yes. I guess I'd better get busy. Maybe I'll start by sending a letter to our conference officers."

**I suggested she make it personal, as I did.** I told her I had sent a personal e-mail to persons in my circle, district, and conference that I hoped to recruit, women with whom I already had a relationship. I suggested she could also make it a contest, telling people to read the response article and "not to let my WNC roommate and her conference beat us."

I do not know what she will do. I DO know what I will do: **I will continue to ask individuals to become Legacy Builders. It IS personal.** I think of Jesus as he walked by the Sea of Galilee and called Simon(Peter), Andrew, James,, and John. He called them by name, not by extending a blanket invitation. As I continue to ask women I know to join me in Legacy Builders, I encourage each of you to talk about Legacy Builders with women with whom you have a relationship. **Giving to United Methodist Women IS personal.**

Dixie Liggett



Revelation 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, honor and power for thou hast created all things.”

## Appalachian District UMW Virtual Spiritual Renewal

Saturday, March 20, 2021

“Unique, Useful and Different...all in God’s Light”

Speaker: Sandra Williamson, Northern Piedmont District President

Please join us for a Worship & Memorial Service with a Love Offering in Memory of those Remembered.

Links to join: <https://wnccumw.org/districtevents/> or [www.appumw.com](http://www.appumw.com)

Memorial information is due by March 9, 2021.

Call Judy Sipe at (828) 612-1519 or email names to

**Hands on Mission Project---** Bethlehem Center Supplies: washable markers, washable paints, jumbo crayons, jumbo pencils, #2 pencils, colored pencils

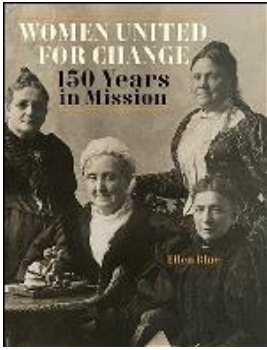
### Western North Carolina Conference 20/21 Vision

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Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of  
women, children and youth around the world

- **Raise awareness & build relationships with the United Methodist Women mission institutions in our conference:** *Alliance Center for Education (Formerly Bethlehem Center Charlotte), Bethlehem Center Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College, and Pfeiffer University*
- **Raise awareness and promote personal advocacy for our two United Methodist Women priority issues:** *Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color & Mass Incarceration*
- **Building relationships, supporting, and encouraging local units in living out our Purpose during a pandemic and beyond.**
- **Achieve our Conference Financial Goal:** *Each unit will make at least one Gift to Mission of at least \$5.00, using any cards they have, in honor of one person in Mission listed in either the Prayer Calendar or a **response** magazine article.*
- **Continue to live out our Purpose as we move into the NEXT 150 Years of United Methodist Women in Mission!**

Sincerely,  
Your WNCC UMW Team



## **Appalachian District, United Methodist Women**

Mission Study 2021

**Via Zoom**

**Saturday, April 24, 2021**

**2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**And**

**Sunday, April 25, 2021**

**2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

## **Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission**

**Study Leader: Rev. Lisa Beth White**

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This study provides a historical survey of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations and amplifies the voices that shaped the work through an overarching story of United Methodist Women changing the fact of mission. This study is about women who established vibrant societies to support mission.

Attendance at this study will fulfill requirements for **Mission Today Criteria #4**.

**Advance Registration is required** and will be available through the WNCC UMW website.

### **Conference Hands on Mission Project:**

**UMCOR Hygiene Kits** {Kit Contains: 1 Hand Towel: 15" x 25" up to 17" X 27" ( No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels please); 1 Washcloth - No kitchen towels; 1 Comb - sturdy - No rattail or picks; 1 Nail Clipper - No nail file or emery; 1 Bar Soap - 3 oz or larger; 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multipacks and in manufacturer covering; 10 Adhesive Bandages - 3/4" x 3"} Place items in 1-gallon resealable plastic bag; Include \$2 for shipping ( DO NOT PUT in Bag but send to Nancy Johnson, District Treasurer.)

**OR**

**UMCOR School Kits** {Kit Contains: One pair blunt scissors (round tip only & no plastic scissors); one box of 24 crayons; three one-subject notebooks (no marble composition books & no 3- or 5-subject notebooks); one pack of loose-leaf paper (100 to 200 page packets/wide or college-rule accepted); one hand-held pencil sharpener (1-inch or longer & remove from packaging); one ruler (12" or 30 centimeters long and sturdy or flexible material accepted); six unsharpened pencils; one eraser (2" or larger); one two-gallon re-sealable plastic bag} Place all kit items inside two-gallon bag; do not put any notes, money or additional material inside the bag.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION