



National United Methodist Church



RECOGNITION BRUNCH
January 13, 2024

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

JANUARY

**27 - JAZZ@WESLEY: MICHAEL THOMAS
QUINTET**

6:30-8:30 PM, Wesley

FEBRUARY

18 - BOOK DRIVE

10AM-2PM, Parking lot,
Metropolitan

23-25 - BOOK & BAKE SALE

Vestry, Metropolitan

24 - JAZZ@WESLEY: NOM

6:30-8:30 PM, Wesley

MARCH

8-10 - UMW ANNUAL RETREAT

Priest Field, Kearneysville, WV

Metropolitan Memorial campus: 3401 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016

Wesley campus: 5312 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20015

Phone: 202-363-4900

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Reflections



Charles Spurgeon's 9 Tips for Christian Readers

Excerpted from an article by Kevin P. Halloran about preacher Charles Spurgeon's (1834-1891) comments about reading.

Full article available at <https://www.kevinhalloran.net/charles-spurgeons-9-tips-for-christian-readers/>

1. Know that your reading is important.

"Give yourself unto reading. The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men's brains, proves that he has no brains of his own. You need to read."

2. Reading and praying are the best ways to spend leisure time.

"We are quite persuaded that the very best way for you to be spending your leisure time, is to be either reading or praying. You may get much instruction from books which afterwards you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service. Paul cries, "Bring the books" — join in the cry."

3. Read fewer books deeply instead of rushing through many.

"Master those books you have. Read them thoroughly. Bathe in them until they saturate you. Read and reread them...digest them. Let them go into your very self. Peruse a good book several times and make notes and analyses of it. A student will find that his mental constitution is more affected by one book thoroughly mastered than by twenty books he has merely skimmed. Little learning and much pride comes from hasty reading. Some men are disabled from thinking by their putting meditation away for the sake of much reading. In reading let your motto be 'much not many.'"

4. Make sure your learning results in heart knowledge.
"An ounce of heart knowledge is worth more than a ton of head learning."

Continued next page

Continued from page 3

5. Live in the Bible.

“Visit many good books, but live in the Bible.”

“All human books grow stale after a time—but with the Word of God the desire to study it increases, while the more you know of it the less you think you know. The Book grows upon you: as you dive into its depths you have a fuller perception of the infinity which remains to be explored. You are still sighing to enjoy more of that which it is your bliss to taste.”

6. Read the Puritans.

“By all means read the Puritans, they are worth more than all the modern stuff put together.”

“Next to the Bible, the book I value most is John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress. I believe I have read it through at least a hundred times. It is a volume of which I never seem to tire; and the secret of its freshness is that it is so largely compiled from the Scriptures.”

7. Learn from Paul’s example.

[Speaking of Paul’s words in 2 Timothy 4:13]:

“He was inspired, and yet he wants books!

He had been preaching for thirty years, and yet he wants books! He had seen the Lord, and yet he wants books!

He had a wider experience than most men do, and yet he wants books! He had been caught up into the third heaven, and had heard things that it was not lawful for a man to utter, and yet he wants books!

He had written a major part of the New Testament, and yet he wants books!”

8. Discern what you should and shouldn’t read.

“Learn to say no. It will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin.”

9. Prioritize your reading with what nourishes your soul.

“Give yourself to reading. ‘... You need to read. Renounce as much as you will all light literature, but study as much as possible sound theological works, especially the Puritanic writers, and expositions of the Bible.”

UMW Executive Board 2024-2025

Officers	Name	Email
President	Courtney Leatherman	maryrollefson45@gmail.com
Vice President	Alice Sartain	sartains@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Mary Rollefson	maryrollefson45@gmail.com
Treasurer	Gretchen Smith-Mui	lrgsm83@aol.com

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Education	Angela Pupino	apupino14@gmail.com
Membership	Rita Guenther & Paula Pree	ritaguenther@yahoo.com iamasong@aol.com
Program Resources	Pastor Mele Aho	mtmp_aho@hotmail.com
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Spiritual Growth	DeeDee Parker Wright	Deedee.parkerwright@yahoo.com

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Book Sale	Anita Seline & Martha Mizroch	amseline@aol.com martha_miz@hotmail.com
Nominations	Heidi Holgate	hmholgate1@gmail.com
Retreat	Suzanne Vieth	msvieth@verizon.net
Recognitions	Barbara Green	bgreen@wesleyseminary.edu
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1	Rita Guenther Paula Pree	ritaguenther@yahoo.com iamasong@aol.com
2	Jeri Weaver	jerilyn.weaver@gmail.com
6	Ann Michel	amichel@wesleyseminary.edu
7	Ellie Dawson	elizabeth.b.dawson@gmail.com
8	Dana Lehmer	danaklehmer@gmail.com
9	Bobby Turnbull	bobbyturnbull@comcast.net
10	Jane Bufkin & Jeanie Mah	jbufkin@gmail.com msjcmu1@gmail.com

Book & Bake Sale 2024 dates

Book Drive, February 18

Book Sale, February 23-25

In a few weeks, we will welcome back the UMW Book & Bake Sale, February 23, 24, and 25. What a great way to support organizations working to help women, young people, children, and immigrants as well as de-clutter your home, spend time with friends, and find some amazing books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, and puzzles.

Assist with any aspect of the sale by posting flyers, baking cookies, telling friends about the sale, donating from your own libraries, showing up to collect donations, organize titles, set up, and sell. We welcome any amount of your time and in whatever form you can give to this anticipated event.

This year's sale will support

- Project Transformation DC, a summer camp that helps kids retain and improve their reading skills;
- AsylumWorks, an organization that provides employment and legal support to immigrants in the DC area;
- FAIR Girls, providing intervention and holistic care to female survivors of human trafficking; and
- Wesley Seminary.

Continued next page

Schedule

Sunday, February 18

BOOK DRIVE

10 AM - 2 PM

Parking lot, Metropolitan

Sun, Feb. 18 - Thurs, Feb 22

SETUP WEEK

10 AM-5 PM on Sunday

10 AM-8 AM on Mon-Thurs

Vestry, Metropolitan

Fri, Feb. 23 - Sun, Feb. 25

BOOK & BAKE SALE

Friday & Saturday, 8 AM - 8 PM

Sunday, 8 AM-noon

Vestry, Metropolitan

Bakers



Thanks for donating your goodies. Please help us avoid plastic wrap & bags. Instead, drop off baked goods in recycled carry out containers or bring in as one & we'll divvy into separate containers we have on hand.

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To kick off the sale, we will hold a Book Drive, Sunday February 18 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Metropolitan parking lot. Come in with your donations of books, vinyl records, DVDs, CDs, and puzzles. And tell your friends too. Rachel Luna, executive director of Project Transformation DC, will be there to assist. Set-up week follows starting Sunday Feb. 18 until 5 pm. Monday through Thursday, we will set up from 8 am to 8 pm in the Vestry. The sale runs Friday Feb. 23 and Saturday Feb. 24 from 8 am to 8pm. Sunday Feb. 25, the sale will be 8 am to 12 noon.

Not going to be here or can't help during the sale week? Bake something for the bake sale and freeze it for the Bake Sale. Thanks to Caralee Adams and Pyper Imperial who are managing the Bake Sale aspect of the event. Also, thanks to Circle 8 and Circle 10 for making soup, which will also be on sale.

If you can't make the drive, you are welcome to drop off donations to the UMW closet, located in the hallway off of the Metropolitan Vestry ANY SUNDAY ONLY between now and Feb. 18. Please avoid coming to the church during the week and expect church staff to help you with your boxes. Save your donations for Sundays only.

And don't forget: EVERYONE can help with publicity! Tell your friends, family, book clubs, social circles about our public collection of donations and the Book Sale. Post a flyer, send out publicity on your local list serves. Every little bit helps, really!

Please sign up to help for the Book Drive and the Book & Bake Sale with our sign up genius. For those not comfortable using the site, please contact Anita Seline, amseline@aol.com or 202-841-3453, and she will sign you up.

Link: [Book & Bake Sale Sign Up](#)

QR code:



It is important that we know you're volunteering so we can alert church security staff on who is coming to volunteer. Any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact the sale organizers:

Anita Seline
amseline@aol.com

Martha Mizroch
martha_miz@hotmail.com

UMW Women's Retreat 2024: March 8-10, 2024

Friday - Sunday, March 8-10

Priest Field Pastoral Center

Kearneysville, WV

Unlocking the History of Women in the Early Church ... and Beyond

Christian tradition has for centuries imposed a patriarchal lens on the stories of the Bible and the foundation of the early church. But that is not how Jesus conducted his ministry. And it is not an accurate depiction of women in the early church.

Join us as we explore our history as women in the church, and tap into the power we hold as women, supporting and encouraging and affirming each other. We will study New Testament stories that affirm the leadership of women, learn about the true history of patriarchy in the church, and use our creativity to celebrate our gifts as women in the world. The program will draw heavily from the book by Beth Allison Barr, *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became the Gospel Truth*.

Our Leader is Rev. Vicky Starnes, a retired clergywoman who

served three different churches during her 30 years in ministry. A passion for women and their rights and specifically Jesus' call for women's freedom has always been a touchstone in Vicky's preaching and leadership. She is an experienced retreat leader who has led retreats across the Baltimore-Washington conference.

The retreat will be held March 8-10, 2024, at PriestField Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. Registration includes two nights accommodation and meals: \$265 double occupancy; \$300 single occupancy. Space is limited.

Sign up via the registration page on the UMW website. Copy and paste nationalchurchumw.org/retreat or use one of the following:

Link: [Retreat registration](https://nationalchurchumw.org/retreat)

QR code:



Recognition Brunch 2024

by Alex McPherron

The Recognition Brunch took place on Saturday, January 13, at the Wesley campus.

Gratitude goes out to all those who contributed to the event, assisting with food, decorations, set up, and clean up. A special thanks goes to the talented young dancers of Ballet Elite, who opened our event.

During the brunch, we celebrated the achievements of three remarkable women: Joan Gordon, Dana Lehmer, and Lois Weaver. Additionally, a surprise Special Recognition Award was presented to Richard Tilley, who was completely unaware of the honor.

In forthcoming newsletters, we will feature transcripts of the award presentations.

Meanwhile, the program is attached. It highlights the women we have lost, those who have joined circles, and the babies baptized in our church over the past year.

For more photos, please refer to the Appendix.

Photos by Jeanie Mah, Peter Mucha and Alex McPherron

Paula Pree & honoree
Joan Gordon



Honoree Dana
Lehmer & Marilyn
Dickenson



Honoree Lois Weaver
& Debbie Himes

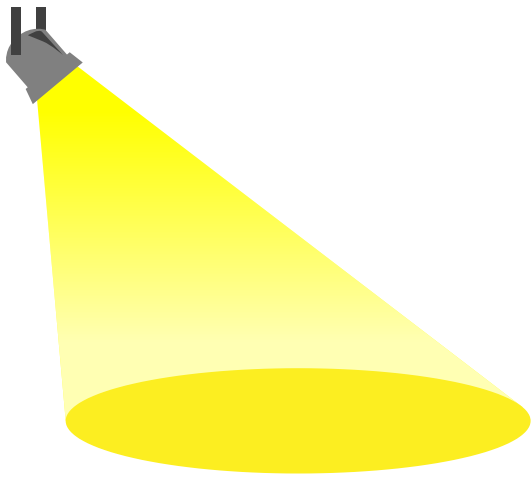


Courtney Leatherman
& Special Honoree
Richard Tilley





Joys & Concerns



*UMW Member
Spotlight:*

Kim Anderson

The DC Public Library has a podcast called Get Lit. In December, Kim was a guest on the show!

EPISODE SUMMARY

Join us as we explore the winter holiday season. We hear from writers Kim Renay Anderson and Rev. Veronica Graves, listen to the ending of *The Dead* by James Joyce and ruminate over what it is that's so important about these days. Is it just the food? Is it the religious aspects? Is it family? What is it?

Click below to listen

[Get Lit: Holiday Edition](https://dcplpodcast.simplecast.com/episodes/get-lit-winter-holiday-edition)

or copy and paste

<https://dcplpodcast.simplecast.com/episodes/get-lit-winter-holiday-edition>



*Did you realize Ash
Wednesday is
February 14 this year?*

Thank you notes from Bazaar recipients



*Email from Esther Inuwa at E-Faith
Humanitarian Foundation*

Happy New Year to you and the
UMW National UMC.

On behalf of the E-Faith
Humanitarian Foundation, we
thank you for your benevolence
to the foundation. In December
2023, we provided foodstuffs
and financial assistance to 137
widows, aged women, and less
privileged women across four
annual conferences of the UMC,
Nigeria. The huge number of
beneficiaries was possible this
year because of your increased
benevolence offer to the
foundation.

However, the foundation's
benevolence drew much
attention from the media this
year and was broadcast on
Taraba state eTelevision and
North-East Newspaper, and
social media. UMW National
UMC was also recognized.

The attached pictures, videos,
and Facebook links are for your
review.

E-Faith Humanitarian
Foundation is preparing for the
orphans' school fees this January
as schools resumes.

James 1:27- "Religion that is pure
and undefiled before God, the Father,
is this: to care for orphans and
widows in their distress, and to keep
oneself unstained by the world."

May your gift continue to be an
eternal seed for you. Amen.

Thank you again for partnering
with us to help widows and
orphans in Nigeria. We pray for
more open doors and your
continuous help.

Please reach out at any time for
inquiry or clarification.

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FYI-Please open the video file with Google Drive.

Esther Inuwa, MTS. '20, STM. '22.

Ph.D. Student: Bible & Cultures/Drew University.
Graduate Intern/Drew University's Center on Religion, Culture & Conflict.
Research Assistant/Africana Studies

Founder/President E-Faith Humanitarian Foundation
Email- einuwa@drew.edu.
estherinuwa78@gmail.com;
efaithfoundation@gmail.com

For I am confident of this thing that
He who began a good work in you will
perfect it until the day of Christ
Jesus- Philippians 1:6.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/efaith.foundation>

Video on Google Drive

[E-Faith Foundation.mp4](#)



*Letter from Ken Obuya at KenAid
Children's Fund*



Dec 21st, 2023

Through
The Treasurer, UMW-DC

Christian greetings to all members of the UMW,

What a beautiful way to end the year!

We acknowledge receipt of your kind donation of **USD 3,041.86**, on Dec 21st, 2023. We wish to sincerely thank you, all, for this huge donation to KenAid Children's Fund-Kenya. This, coming on Christmas eve, is even more exciting.

This fund will enable us to complete stalled toilet project at Blueview School. When complete, kids will have 8 new modern, flushable toilets to use.

Why this project is significant to us;

When the school began, we didn't have a single toilet room for kids and teachers. We borrowed a neighbor's unfinished toilet. After we fixed the door, so the school and neighbor could share the room (and that was the deal), we couldn't afford 2 iron sheets and timber to cover the roof. Our Kids and teachers used the single "open-to-sky" room for a whole year.

It's because of such support that we've been able to improve. This donation in particular will truly make a big difference. We rejoice to have friends like you!

Sincerely,

Ken Obuya
Board President
KenAid Children's Fund

Kenya Office: 11th Street, UGATUZI, Kiembeni / Hussein Dairy Rd, Mombasa

P. O. Box 82307-80100, Mombasa - Kenya Cell: +254 722 668138 / +254 722 778 103 / +1202 341 3875
W: www.kenaid.org, Email: info@kenaid.org

Thank you note from 2023 Book & Bake Sale recipient



January 5, 2023

Dear Gretchen,

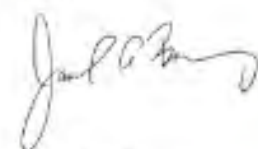
As the new President and CEO of Educare DC, I want to start by thanking you for your partnership, your moral support, and your financial contribution. It has been a blessing to be a part of Educare DC's first ten years — through our organizational growth and increased reach in our community, while maintaining our high-quality standards.

Everyone asks me the big question, "What is next for Educare DC?" My vision is that we preserve the strength of the organization and take it to the next level by continuing that success. The driver for that is "excellence in everything!"

We will strive for excellent interactions with children and families, excellent performance, excellent and efficient meetings, and to provide excellent opportunities for staff to grow and learn. The Educare Excellence will shine bright!

Thank you for your continued support in 2023. I wish you a new year that brings hope and health to you and yours.

Truly,



Jamal Berry
President and CEO

P.S. Follow us on social by clicking the icons below!



Our Contact Information
Educare DC
640 Anacostia Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20019
202-727-5604
<http://www.educaredc.org>

[Donate Today](#)

Follow Us on Social Media





Presents

Michael Thomas Quintet

Saturday, January 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Sanctuary, Wesley campus
5312 Connecticut Avenue, NW



The Michael Thomas Quintet is a powerful and energetic group deeply rooted in the tradition of jazz. Now celebrating twenty-five years together, the quintet has the unique capability to capture an audience and take them on an excursion to where "Hard-bop and Blues" swing joyfully and soulfully together. These guys know jazz, respect jazz, and love jazz. Join us for a fun and energetic evening sure to chase the winter blues away.

Meals available for purchase

Menu: Jerk chicken, baked chicken, turkey chili, and vegan chili. All meals come with a salad, rice, and beverage. A la carte items available.

nationalchurch.org/jazz



Presents

Nom

Saturday, February 24 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Sanctuary, Wesley campus
5312 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Come experience an upcoming and amazing young talent on the DC music scene, Nom and his band.



Meals available for purchase

Menu: Jerk chicken, baked chicken, turkey chili, and vegan chili. All meals come with a salad, rice, and beverage. A la carte items available.

nationalchurch.org/jazz

Join the Arts Council!

by Marilu Wood

What IS the Arts Council?

Since 1986, women and men of National UMC (formerly Metropolitan Memorial) have met once a month - by Zoom or in person - at night or during the day to choose art and music for 3 shows a year. Our shows are held at the Metropolitan campus and start with an afternoon concert in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception and art exhibit opening in the Great Hall.

Specifically, for each show, the Council members

1. **find and choose** the art and music for the afternoon;
2. **interview** the artist and **write** articles for The Messenger and for the program that accompanies that show and concert;
3. **design** the program;
4. **research and produce** the labels and the Price List;
5. **hang** the show-the most fun of all; and then
6. **attend** THE OPENING-which may be more fun.

Lots of work for many different talents!

Bring a friend! They don't have to belong to National. It is

enough to love the arts and want to share your love with others.

Carol Schleicher is waiting to talk with you. Contact her at rschlei@verizon.net.



Handbell ringers needed!

by Susan Staines

Have you studied piano or another instrument? Come practice with us Sunday afternoons from 1-2:30 PM in the Metropolitan Memorial Sanctuary. Join a multi-generational group of joyful ringers.

Please contact Susan Staines at HandbellsatNUMC@gmail.com for more info.



Circles

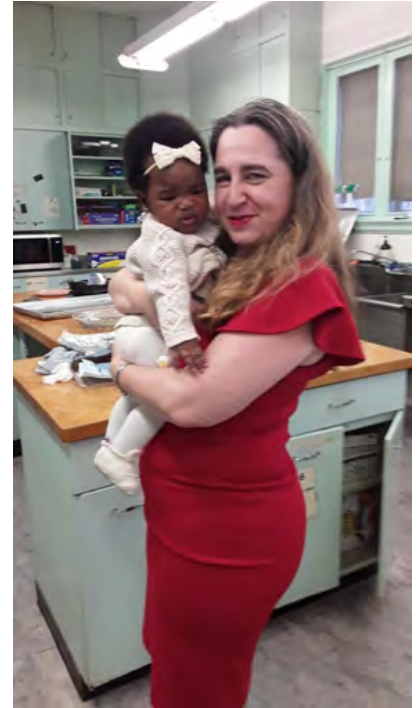
AU Contact women@aumethodists.org

- 1** Contact Rita Guenther, ritaguenther@yahoo.com; Paula Pree, iamasong@aol.com
- 2** Contact Jeri Weaver, jerilyn.weaver@gmail.com
- 6** Circle Six will meet on Sunday, February 4 at 3:00 pm via Zoom. Contact Ann Michel, amichel@wesleyseminary.edu
- 7** Contact Ellie Dawson, elizabeth.b.dawson@gmail.com
- 8** Contact Dana Lehmer, danaklehmer@gmail.com
- 9** Circle 9 will meet on Wednesday, February 7 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Janet Craswell will tell us about her sabbatical and about Godly Play. Please contact Bobby Turnbull, bobbyturnbull@comcast.net
- 10** Contact Jeanie Mah (msjcmyu1@gmail.com) or Jane Bufkin (jbufkin@gmail.com) if you are not on the Circle 10 email list and would like to be added!

Newsletter prepared by Alexandra McPherron. To add items to the next newsletter, email alexmcph@gmail.com

UMW Recognition Brunch

Photos from Courtney Leatherman, Jeanie Mah, Peter Mucha and Alex McPherron



Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our sisters who have smoothed the road before us, by the United Methodist Women / United Women in Faith.







