

UMW Newsletter

NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January-February 2018

Metropolitan Memorial & Wesley UMC Campuses
202-363-4900 (MMUMC office)
MetroUMW@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendar

<i>January</i>	<i>pg</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>pg</i>
13 Sa	Next newsletter deadline	18-20 F-Su	UMW Assembly (Columbus, OH)
22-26 M-F	Assylum seeker job training (Wisconsin Ave Baptist Church)	4	
22 M	UMW Board Mtg (7:15pm, MMUMC Conference Rm)		
<i>February</i>		<i>September</i>	
2-4 F-Su	UWM Women's Retreat (Priestfield, WV)	22 Sa	Susanna Wesley House Luncheon, TBD
14 W	Ash Wednesday		
18-19 Su-M	Book drive (MMUMC parking lot)		
23-25 F-Su	UMW Book & Bake Sale (MMUMC Vestry)		
24 Sa	GWD UMW Legislative Seminar (9-10:30am, Silver Spring UMC)		
24 Sa	GWD UMW Officers Training (11am-noon, Silver Spring UMC)		
<i>March</i>		<i>October</i>	
25 Su	Palm Sunday	13 Sa	GWD UMW Annual Mtg 2018, TBD
<i>April</i>		27 Sa	BWC UMW Annual Celebration, TBD
1 Su	Easter		
21 Sa	GWD UMW Annual Prayer Breakfast, TBD		
		<i>November</i>	
		18-20	UN Seminar, NYC



The Stranger's Grave, Priestfield Pastoral Center, Kearneysville, West Virginia

Reflections

We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass—grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. We need silence to be able to touch souls.

~ *Mother Teresa*

A Message from Our UMW Presidents

Dear Sisters,

We are thrilled to serve as your Co-Presidents for the next two years. As members of the UMW Executive Committee for the past four years, we have been able to see up close and personal how the UMW is able to fulfill our stated purpose: “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”. Just in the past year, in addition to our many regular activities, our UMW has launched a new circle of young women (welcome Circle 7 members!) and dispersed discernment funds and retreat funds to deserving organizations that serve women and children here and around the world. We hope that all of you will want to become more involved in the UMW in the coming months and years.

A perfect opportunity to get to know your UMW sisters in a relaxed, supportive environment is at the UMW Women’s Retreat on February 2-4 at the PriestField Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, West Virginia. The theme is “Finding Nurture in Nature: Spirituality in Winter” and details can be found on p. 3. Our annual retreats provide a unique opportunity for bonding in a beautiful setting. Please consider joining us. Soon after the retreat we’ll be back to work raising money for two worthy organizations, Jubilee Jumpstart and Capital Partners for Education, at our annual Book and Bake Sale. Details on our Book Drive (February 18-19) and Book and Bake Sale (February 23-25) can be found on p. 5. Please consider how you can contribute to making this event a success, whether it be volunteering at the drive or sale, baking, donating books, or helping with setup or cleanup. Our amazing Anita Seline’s sign up genius will provide you with lots of options.

Thank you all for your past support of our UMW and we look forward to many good and meaningful times together in the next two years.

~ *Connie Sommers* (President) & *Alexandra McPherron* (Co-President)



2018 Metropolitan Women's Retreat

Feb. 2-4, 2018

PriestField, Pastoral Center, Kearneysville, WV

***Finding Nurture in Nature:
Spirituality in Winter***



Our ancestors' first experiences of God were in and through the natural world. They saw God infused in every aspect of nature, so much so that the Hebrews used the same word—ruach—to describe Spirit, wind and breath.

The frantic pace of modern life can leave us feeling disconnected from the restorative power of nature. We may even feel physically isolated, away from what we think of as Nature. But the natural world is all around us, regardless of season, and thus is always available to us. Join us for a fascinating exploration of how God's wisdom, spirit and Word is imbued in nature—and how we can connect to it through regular practice. We will be led by Dr. Beth Norcross, founding director of the Center for Spirituality in Nature and faculty member at Wesley Theological Seminary.

Our retreat will once again be held at the lovely PriestField Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, West Virginia. Along with interactive sessions, time will be set aside for self-directed activities and quiet contemplation, as well as worship and breaking bread together.

Our leader: Dr. Beth Norcross

An enthusiastic and popular teacher, speaker and preacher, Beth Norcross loves to share her passion and affection for both the earth and the Spirit with others. Beth is adjunct faculty at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where she has developed and teaches courses on eco-spirituality and eco-theology. Beth has spoken to a wide variety of churches and organizations, and has written several articles and developed educational resources for congregations, including a [spiritual study guide](#) to Ken Burns' film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. See her bio and list of articles [here](#).

Direct links to copy and paste:

<http://earthministry.org/ken-burns-national-parks-religious-study-guides-and-clips-dvds/>

<http://www.centerforspiritualityinnature.org/biography>

The Retreat Registration is attached to this email. It can be left in the UMW box in Metropolitan office or mailed to Metropolitan. For more information contact Suzanne Vieth at MetroUMW@gmail.com





Helping Asylum Seekers in our Region

Monday, January 22 through Friday, January 26, 2018

Thanks to the many church members who generously gave donations to help clients of the Asylum Seeker Assistance Project. Several bags of soaps, shampoo, socks and cosmetics were presented to ASAP Founder Joan Hodges-Wu at the United Methodist Women's annual recognition lunch in December. This is in addition to a portion of the proceeds from the UMW bazaar which will be given to the organization.

The items will be available to new immigrants, who often struggle to make ends meet as they settle in our area after fleeing from repressive countries around the world. ASAP is the first and only nonprofit dedicated to serving the estimated 25,000 asylum seekers in the D.C. metro area. Its mission is to support the safety, stability, and economic security of asylum seekers and their families.

ASAP is actively recruiting volunteers to assist with its upcoming job readiness training. It will take place from **Monday, Jan 22rd – Friday, Jan 26th** at ASAP's office located on the second floor of the Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church, **3920 Alton Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20016**. Volunteers are encouraged to come at noon with food to contribute to our potluck lunch (no pork please).

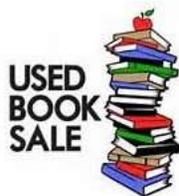
From noon to 1 p.m., volunteers and clients are encouraged to meet one another and talk during lunch. After lunch, volunteers co-facilitate small group breakout sessions designed to help clients practice skills learned in the morning. Directions for the assigned breakout session are provided to volunteer after lunch. Volunteers are welcome to come any day of the week and for as many days as they like.

For more information or to RSVP as a volunteer, please contact Joan at joan@asylumprojectdc.org or Caralee Adams at caralee.adams@verizon.net. Visit the ASAP website at www.asylumprojectdc.org.



Joan Hodges-Wu (left) and Holly Adams (right) with supplies donated to ASAP by attendees at the 2017 UMW Recognition Lunch. *Photo by Caralee Adams*





Book & Bake Sale – Save the Date
Friday-Sunday, February 23-25, 2018, MMUMC
Book Drive Sunday, February 18 & Monday, February 19,
2018, MMUMC parking lot



The annual Book & Bake Sale will help kids from diapers to diplomas, so plan to be an active part of the 2018 effort. Next month, we will begin collecting books for our annual Book & Bake Sale. Please hold off on dropping off your donations until January, 2018 but even better, wait until set up week, starting Feb. 18 to drop off your books so we can get them categorized immediately. Remember, we do not sell VCR tapes, travel books older than five years, magazines, textbooks, and encyclopedias.

This year, the Book & Bake Sale will benefit two new-to-us organizations, Jubilee Jumpstart, an early education program in Mount Pleasant, and Capital Partners in Education, which supports low-income students attending college.

A sign-up genius will be distributed in January, but if you're a planner, and like to book your volunteer slots ahead of time, here is the link for this year's sale volunteer organization:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=70a0e4da8a6238-book1&useFullSite=true>

As always, if you are not comfortable using this system, simply contact Anita Seline at amseline@aol.com and she can sign you up from her end. Even an hour or two of your time will help us make the UMW Book and Bake Sale a success.

~ Anita Seline, amseline@aol.com



2017 UMW Recognition Lunch Recap

Dear Sisters,

On Sunday, December 10 we gathered in the Great Hall at the Metropolitan campus to for our annual Recognition Lunch. The tables were beautifully decorated in red and green for Christmas and we had a delicious meal. Thank you to Ann Michel and the hospitality committee and all of our volunteers. We are grateful to the 2016-2017 Recognition Program Coordinators, Regula Guess and Beverly Fleming, for an outstanding job managing the nominations and putting together the programs for the past two years. (We still need new Coordinators for 2018-2019. Please see p. 7 for a description of the duties and how you can help.) Thank you to the attendees who donated feminine protection products for the DC Diaper Bank program for poor women, The Monthly. Anita Seline organized the donation again this year and transported all of the products that were collected. (For more information on The Monthly, see greaterdcdiaperbank.org/the-monthly/.)

Our special guest speaker was Joan Hodges-Wu, Founder of the Asylum Seekers Assistance Project (ASAP). Joan told us about her group's programs to provide asylum seekers with safety, stability and economic security. Thank you to all who dropped off toiletries for ASAP clients and to Holly Adams for taking charge of packing them up (see

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photo, p. 4). For more information about ASAP and how you can help, see p. 4 of this newsletter and www.asylumprojectdc.org).

In honor of the ten babies born or adopted by congregation members in 2017, the UMW made a donation to the DC Diaper Bank. We also looked to the future as we welcomed members to our new Circle 7 for their first Recognition Lunch: Katy Allen, Megan Blanchard, Marla Bosta, Casey Campbell, Katie Campbell, Carolina Corrales, Ellie Dawson, Louisa Imperiale, Laura O'Neill, Cindy Stanton and Aubrey Villalobos. Thanks to Caralee Adams for creating this new circle of young women.

We also remembered those we lost in 2017. Alice Sartain and Phyllis Kokus read the names and rang a bell in remembrance of these ten UMW members: Yolanda Augustine, Marilyn Holden Baldwin, Carol Beaver, Linda Gay Davenport, Betty Major, Blanche Major, Lauren Olson, Elizabeth Pozen, Marjorie Shelton and Betty Stanford.

We then had our presenter speeches for our 2017 Honorees. They were even funnier than usual and allowed us to learn more about each honoree and her contributions to the UMW, our church and the wider community. See p. 7 for the first award presentation to Ellen Bachman by Suzanne Vieth and look for the other speeches in upcoming newsletters. Congratulations to all our deserving honorees and thank you to our wonderful presenters. In an unusual twist we had a surprise honoree who happens to also be our first male honoree. Thanks to Barbara Gaskill for tricking her husband, Clem, into showing up just in time to receive his award. The look on Clem's face was priceless.

Finally, our treasurer, Rita Guenther, gave an update on where our money goes and then our 2018-2019 officers were introduced. We have some open slots still so if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeanie Mah, msjcmyu1@gmail.com

Honoree	Presenter
Ellen Bachman	Suzanne Vieth
Carole Bartlett	Pam Settlage
Rita Guenther	Cynthia Pugh
Drema-McAllister Wilson	Bobby Turnbull
Clem Gaskill	Ann Michel

Congratulations to the honorees and thanks to everyone who made this event possible. We are fortunate to have so many in our UMW who are dedicated to serving others.

~ Alexandra McPherron

See the Appendix for more photos.



Help Wanted - UMW Recognition Program Coordinators



We hope you enjoyed the annual Recognition Program and Luncheon way back in early December 2017! The annual Recognition event is beloved because of its traditions, such as remembering the women who have passed from our midst and celebrating the new babies in our church family.



But it is also beloved because each year, we get the opportunity to be inspired anew by the women whose service is recognized, and entertained anew by the unique styles and stories shared by their presenters! There is also the occasional unscripted surprise, such as when Clem Gaskill was honored as the first man recognized for his service to missions through his role as Bazaar security captain!

Beverly Fleming and Regula Guess have done a marvelous job for the past two years coordinating the Recognition Program, which included soliciting nominations of UMW women to be recognized. Now that their 2-year term is spent, we are looking for a new Recognition team to help put on the 2018 and 2019 Recognition programs. Recognition Coordinators can follow a ready-made to-do list for how to put together our traditional program each December and are only responsible for the program, and not for coordinating the luncheon food and set-up.

If you are interested in helping our UMW with this favorite event and joining the 2018-19 UMW board as a Recognition Coordinator, please contact Jeanie Mah, msjcmym1@gmail.com.

Ellen Bachman: 2017 UMW Recognition Honoree, December 10, 2017

by Suzanne Vieth

It gives me great pleasure to say a few words about our first honoree, Ellen Bachman. Let me start by saying I'm proud to be a church lady, and prouder still that Ellen is one of my oldest (that is, longstanding) church lady friends. As near as I can recall it, we met in the choir room at Foundry UMC over 20 years ago.

Ellen hails from the northern tier of the Eastern US. She was born and spent her early childhood in Vermont, and later moved to the Albany area. She was PK – a preacher's kid – as her father was a Methodist minister in the Troy Annual conference. Her nickname as a baby among the church ladies was "Pinkie", which while it sounds a lot like "PK", was actually a reference to the color of her face when she fussed and let out a healthy wail. Apparently, those lungs of hers got an early workout.

Ellen attended Syracuse University (which was founded by Methodists) and was very active in the Methodist Student Movement, both on campus and statewide. It was during this period that mutual friends decided to create an opportunity for Ellen and a young associate pastor at a local church named Ned Bachman to meet. They quickly fell in love... and nearly 50 years later ...

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While Ned was finishing graduate work, Ellen earned her Master's in Social Work from Syracuse and began a career working primarily in the area of early childhood education and child welfare—with an emphasis on children from disadvantaged backgrounds. When Ned was accepted to law school at George Washington University in the early 1970s, he and Ellen moved to DC and set up house as young marrieds. After testing out a few churches in Northern Virginia that weren't quite the right fit, in 1975 they began attending Foundry UMC in downtown, DC—a place where their passion for social justice could be expressed in myriad ways.

At Foundry, Ned and Ellen became acquainted with a dynamic, committed couple named Sue and John Parker, who were particularly active in the Sunday school and Youth Group program and who recruited Ellen and Ned to work with youth. One of their first classes of youth included a tall, gangly 9th grader named Charlie Parker, who was, as Ellen described “a bit of a geek.”

As I indicated, with the exception of a few years while she took time to raise their two



Above, Ellen Bachman and Suzanne Vieth

daughters, Hope and Joanna, Ellen has spent her entire career teaching preschool or working in local government working on issues related to early intervention and foster care. In 1993, Ellen was appointed director of the Foundry Preschool, an NAEYC accredited Head Start program whose client families included quite a few immigrants—at one time the 50 or so children represented 15 different countries of origin from Africa, Latin America and Asia. Ellen ran the preschool for 12 years until the decision was made to close it in 2005.

As many of you know, one of Ellen's greatest passions is music—and in particular, singing. She recalls singing as one of her very earliest memories. Her formal singing avocation spanned the Hendricks Chapel Choir at Syracuse to 36 years with the Choral Arts Society of Washington and, more recently, with the Capitol Hill Chorale—and, of course, many, many hours making beautiful music with church musicians. I'm honored to stand beside her most Sundays as part of our Dayspring Choir.

When Ellen and Ned decided to move to Metropolitan Memorial in 2007—I guess they felt they had to keep tabs on their protégé Charlie Parker – they jumped right in. Ellen joined Dayspring Choir, became an active member of the United Methodist Women, helped launch our annual women's retreats and, became very involved in the Reconciling Ministries Network. Today Ellen represents National UMC at BWARM, and is a leader on LGBTQ inclusion not only at our church but throughout our region.

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Two years ago, as immediate past president it was my job to recruit our next UMW President, and I knew that Ellen would be a fabulous successor to the amazing Jeanie Mah, whose term was coming to a close. I was not disappointed. Ellen has a particular gift in making sure everyone is heard, encouraging the sharing of ideas and then empowering others to take those ideas and “run” with them. Ellen would be the first to tell you that many of the successes that UMW has enjoyed in the past two years are thanks to the tireless efforts of women other UMW members and leaders. But it is not just a happy coincidence that we have seen financial growth and charitable giving, expanded outreach and service opportunities and the formation of new Circles during her tenure. Ellen helps others flourish – and that is a hallmark of leadership.

One of Ellen’s favorite quotes is, “Music is not my whole life, but it makes my life whole.” I love that quote, and it resonates with me. Today, I would like to say that Ellen is not the whole church, but through her presence, her gifts and her spirit, she helps make our church whole.



AU The AU UMW Circle meets Wednesdays noon-2:00 p.m. in the "AU Lounge" at Metropolitan. Contact women@aumethodists.org

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2 Circle Two will meet on February 14th at 10 in the parlor. Beverly Fleming and Gretchen Mui will tell us about their trip to India. Contact Charlotte Carter, char.carter@cox.net

6 Contact Ann Michel, amichel@wesleyseminary.edu

7 Contact Caralee Adams, caralee.adams@verizon.net

8 Contact Penny Andrews, pandrewsdc@gmail.com

9 Circle 9 will meet on Wednesday, February 7 at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room. Please contact Bobby Turnbull, bobbyturnbull@comcast.net

10 Circle 10 will meet at church on Sunday, Jan. 28th from 5:30-7. Please be on the lookout for an email in the next week or so that includes meeting location and discussion topic. Contact Courtney Leatherman, c_leatherman@ix.netcom.com, or Jeanie Mah, msjcmu1@gmail.com

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

Appendix



Introduction of 2018-2019 officers and circle leaders. Photo by Ann Veatch



Enjoying the presentations. Photo by Jeanie Mah



ASAP Founder Joan Hodges. Photo by Caralee Adams