



The Connecting Link

SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST

Holston
Conference

Smoky
Mountain
District

Local
Unit

DECEMBER 2019

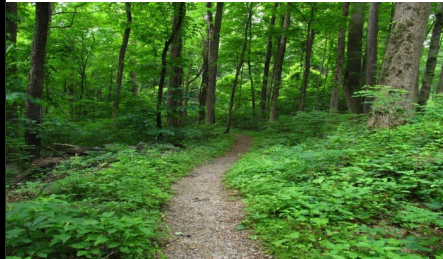
Upcoming Events

NEW VISIONS EVENT †
FEBRUARY 8, 2020
EBENEZER UMC
1:00 PM

PROVIDE AND PROTECT
SEMIMAR
FEBRUARY 18, 2020
MOUNTAIN VIEW UMC
7:00 PM

SEJ QUADRENNIAL
MEETING †
APRIL 17-19, 2020
BIRMINGHAM, AL

MISSION U †
JULY 24-25, 2020
PLEASANT VIEW UMC
ABINGDON, VA



THE JOURNEY

What an exciting year it has been for United Methodist Women all over the world. On March 23, 2019, we celebrated 150 years in mission, a celebration that has continued throughout the year! On January 1, 2019, we became the nine Districts of the Holston Conference United Methodist Women and the Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women came into being. New beginnings are so exciting, fresh starts, wipe the slate, learn from the past and press onward with great hope. This reminds me of God's love that is new to each of us every morning. Each day can be new, exciting and hopeful.

I hope you enjoyed hearing our 1st Annual Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women Annual Meeting's speaker, Betty Asha. Betty is an incredible young lady who has overcome so much in her short life. Betty is from South Sudan and didn't have much hope of going to college, coming to the United States or owning a car. But God had other plans for Betty and in August 2019, Betty began a new journey as a college freshman at Maryville College. And, she has a car that she drives with an ear-to-ear smile! However, Betty is not just focused on herself; she is mostly concerned with the three young girls she rescued in South Sudan and who are now in boarding school in Uganda. You see, Betty is helping those three girls to have better lives just as those who came in contact with Betty helped her. That pretty well describes United Methodist Women, doesn't it? From our beginning, we have always taken seemingly impossible situations and turned them into dreams come true.

As 2019 comes to a close and we look back, we see how important our history has been and how important it is to continue the work that was started in 1869. There are still women, children and youth in our world who need someone to make a difference, to step out in faith and be the emotional and financial support they need to be able to break away from the margins and enjoy the fullness of life. Because of our Pledge to Mission Giving, dreams come true, lives improve and those who are helped, help.

I want to thank each of you for the role you play in the Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women! It takes a village to change the world and I am so thankful to be working alongside great women who have hearts to change the wrong in the world one person at a time. Our theme, **Rejoice in the Lord Always**, will be retired after 2019, but I will always **Rejoice in the Lord Always** for the Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women! I wish each of you a very, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings,
Susan

The † symbol denotes a
Conference or Jurisdiction event.
For more information or to
register for conference events,
visit our website:
<http://holstonumw.org/>

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PRECIOUS UMW MEMORIES

For the Archivists/Historians in the local units, just remember you are “keepers of the stuff.” I know most of you work very hard and enjoy taking pictures of your family members and the exciting things they do in which they are involved.

Please preserve any special documents you might receive and keep those historical minutes, newsletters, and pictures of happenings in your unit. I would suggest that you identify persons in the pictures by writing names on the back of the pictures. This will be very helpful for those who follow your legacy.

You may send any information you want saved in the District archives to me at donaldphillips07@comcast.net or mail to 1401 Blue Ridge Way, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Kay Phillips
Archivist/Historian

TREASURER’S REPORT

At the end of our 3rd quarter, we had given \$33,000 towards our 2019 Pledge to Mission goal of \$69,300. Currently we need about \$35,000 to meet our goal. This looks like a daunting task, but 4th quarter is always our best. Please help us continue to support our mission projects for women, youth, and children on a local, national, and global level.
Blessings to all of you during this wonderful Season.

Kim Hill for
Kim Henry
Treasurer

Please keep Kim Henry and her family in your prayers this blessed season. Kim’s grandmother, Mildred (Millie) Liska, passed away recently at the wonderful age of 102. Kim was very close to her and Millie will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.



SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION NEWS

SAVE THE DATE! Plan now to attend the Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting April 17-19, 2020, in Mobile, AL. Registration is open now online at www.umwsej.org; the fee is \$185 until December 1. After December 1 until March 2, 2020, the fee will be \$210. After March 2 until registration closes on March 15, there is a late fee of \$25 for a total registration of \$235. The registration fee includes the meeting, inspirational speakers and worship, beautiful music, a workshop of your choice, lunch on Saturday, a dinner banquet on Saturday evening, and great entertainment! The meeting and lodging will be at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, AL. To get the negotiated room rate of \$129 plus tax, contact the hotel by calling 251-438-4000; you must mention that you are with the **Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Women**.

You are in for a REAL TREAT in beautiful Mobile in the spring!

Kay Phillips
SEJ Treasurer

MISSION U 2020

Mission u 2020 will be at Pleasant View United Methodist Church, Abingdon, VA July 24-25. Our Spiritual Growth Study will be “Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety”; “School-to-Prison Pipeline using the text *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*” is the Social Issue Study; “Managing Anxiety” will be the Youth Study; “Managing Our Emotions” is the Children’s Study; and “Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission” is offered for the second and final year.

Along with these great studies, we will experience spiritual worship, music, and a time of fellowship all packed into two days together.

Watch for more information as it becomes available in the District and Conference newsletters and in email blasts sent out by our Mission u Secretary. Please make your plans now to attend!

Kay Phillips
Mission u Dean

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting and Officers' Training EXPO were held Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Broadway United Methodist Church in Maryville. A wonderful breakfast prepared by Chef Shawn Banks was served.

There were 11 guests and 52 women present for a total of 63, representing 17 of our 26 units, and the offering was \$376 to Mission Giving.

Betty Asha, a Maryville College student from South Sudan, and Chris Hurley, her American sponsor, shared a moving story of Betty's life. A love offering of \$986 was given for the three young girls Betty is still sponsoring for school in Uganda. Additional funds have been received making a total of \$1,000 given.

Music was provided by the Broadway Praise Band and the Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women quartet of Margaret Denney, Heather Fugatt, Kim Henry, and Nancy Lampe.

Johnnie Bridges, Holston Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Coordinator, installed Smoky Mountain District Officers for 2020. A list of the 2020 officers is included with this newsletter.

After the business session, an Officer Training EXPO was held with a handout detailing duties discussed by each District Officer. Several questions were answered.

Sandra Guinn

Smoky Mountain District Secretary

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The following thoughts were shared during the memorial service at our district annual meeting, and I want to share them once more with those of you who weren't in attendance.

What do you want to be when you grow up? We all were probably asked that question when we were young, or maybe even as adults. The question relates to an ambition in life. From the time I was in Marie Colvin's fifth grade class at Sam Houston Elementary, I wanted to be a fifth-grade teacher just like Marie. I remember my aunt saying all she ever wanted to be was a wife and mother. I don't recall anyone ever suggesting, or that I even considered, pursuing "a quiet life".

Yet that's what Paul told the Thessalonians (I Thess. 4:9-12). First, he urged them to love one another and all of God's family even more. Then he gave them a general admonition that included leading a quiet life so that their daily life would win the respect of others.

I'm not sure of the careers of the quiet women in your life. I don't imagine any of them have had their names engraved on a public statue or emblazed with lights across a marquee. But I'm sure they have won the love and respect from you and others by showing God's love through their daily lives. They have made a difference not only in you, their church, and their community, but around the world as they have dedicated their hands and hearts to support the causes of United Methodist Women. The quiet women who impact our individual lives will probably remain unknown to the world at large, but we know our lives are richer for having known them. Take a few moments to name the quiet women in your life and give thanks for each of them. Go one more step, and write them a note during this holiday season letting them know just how much they mean to you.

Glenda Eastridge
Spiritual Growth



The Connecting Link

NEW VISIONS EVENT

Our 2019 New Visions Event will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 1001 Ebenezer Road, Knoxville. Our speaker will be Rev. Leah Burns, Associate Pastor at Second United Methodist Church in Knoxville.

Rev. Burns is active on many committees and task forces in the Greater Knoxville Community, as well as for the Conference and the Tennessee Valley District. She has organized and facilitated various Conversations on Race workshops. Rev. Burns currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for UTK Wesley Foundation and sits on the Board of Directors for Wesley House.

Registration will begin at 1:00 pm and the program will start at 1:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served following the program and we should dismiss around 3 pm. The Registration form is included with this newsletter and online at www.smokymountainumw.org and our Facebook page.

Cost is \$5 per person to be paid at the door. Please invite a guest to come hear Rev. Burns. For our mission, we will be gathering items for Wesley House. A list of items needed is shown below. We will also have an opportunity to give to our Pledge to Mission Giving.

WISH LIST FOR WESLEY HOUSE

- Paper Towels
- Solid Air Fresheners
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Paper Plates
- Paper or Plastic Bowls
- Plastic Forks and Spoons
- Dessert Plates
- Healthy Snacks
- Juice Boxes
- Toilet Paper (Any Brand)
- 12 Oz Cups
- 33 Gallon Trash Bags
- Bleach (Gallon)
- Vinegar (Gallon)

This is our new logo and Scripture for 2020-2021. The logo was created by Heather Vaughn from Telford UMC in the Three Rivers District. Her logo was chosen from several submissions. Heather describes her logo as:

“One Body, One Spirit Ephesians 4:4-6

My inspiration for the logo really came from what I think about when I hear one body, one spirit. The cross for me symbolizes Christ's body which was given for us ALL and should unite us as one body. The dove has always been a symbol of the spirit of GOD. It is a reminder of the peace that only Christ can bring to our lives.”

Thank you, Heather, for a beautiful representation of United Methodist Women.



LOCAL UNIT NEWS

Mountain View UMW

Have questions about your will? Want to leave a legacy? You're invited to a free Provide & Protect seminar presented by the Holston Foundation on Tuesday, February 18 at Mountain View UMC (3200 Maryville Pike) at 7:00 p.m. The one-hour seminar will cover important end of life issues for adults of all ages, how to give to the ministries you care about and will include a free book. Led by Paul Bowman, executive director of the Holston Foundation, the seminar will include engaging examples of how you can plan for the future.

Light refreshments will be provided. There is no charge, but reservations are requested so we will know how many books to have available. Please RSVP to Alice Nichols at alice.nichols27@gmail.com or 865-803-6739.

Tuckaleechee UMW

On October 17, Tuckaleechee UMW held their annual Fall Festival. It was a huge success, serving over 200 people for lunch & dinner. In addition to food, we had a terrific craft sale, bake sale, and Bonnie McCampbell's "famous" fried pies. We also held a raffle for a quilt and stained glass piece - both crafted by church members.

We were so blessed to have church members and repeat visitors come throughout the day in anticipation of a good meal and a quality sale. This success would not be possible without the time and talents of many within our church family - it indeed "takes a village"!

The proceeds were over \$8000.00, which will all go to missions supported by our UMW. Our Nov/Dec activities include our Holiday bake sale, Holiday ladies luncheon, and making Christmas gift bags for the "Grannies" at Wesley House.



**PROVIDE &
PROTECT
SEMINAR**

Tuesday, February 18
7:00 PM
Mountain View UMC





Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women

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kimhillumw@gmail.com

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KATHRYN MAURER: THE ANGEL OF ANGEL ISLAND

For 40 years, United Methodist Women Deaconess Kathryn Maurer greeted immigrants arriving in America with a smile.

Starting in 1912, Maurer took the ferry every day to the Angel Island Immigration Center in San Francisco to greet immigrants, mostly from China, and help them adjust. Herself an immigrant and the youngest of nine children, she was a social worker who made sure the needs of the new arrivals, some of whom were detained for years, were met. She brought the families food and medical care, she taught them English, and wrote letters and appeals on their behalf.

Along with women like Alma Mathews in New York, Maurer made sure that those new to this country were met with a warm welcome. She devoted herself to comforting those who were lost, traumatized or met with disdain. She truly embodied faith, hope and love in action.

2020 SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	SUSAN DAFFRON
VICE-PRESIDENT	MARGARET DENNEY
SECRETARY	SANDRA GUINN
TREASURER	KIM HENRY
COMMUNICATIONS	KIM HILL
SPIRITUAL GROWTH	GLENDA EASTRIDGE
MNO	LESLIE MILLIGAN
SOCIAL ACTION	ALICE NICHOLS
PROGRAM RESOURCES	
ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN	KAY PHILLIPS
NOMINATIONS CHAIR	NANCY LAMPE
NOMINATIONS	JUDY ROBBINS
NOMINATIONS	RUBY COFFMAN-JONES
NOMINATIONS	PATTI RICHARDS