



The Connecting Link

SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST

Holston
Conference

Smoky
Mountain
District

Local
Unit

MARCH 2020

Upcoming Events

A DAY APART
MARCH 21, 2020
GREEN MEADOW UMC

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

RISE 2020 †
April 24-26, 2020
PIGEON FORGE, TN

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



THE JOURNEY

Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women, we have a plethora of opportunities in 2020. The Leadership Team met in early January and have many District events planned for the year. Our new logo, *One Body, One Spirit* is symbolized by the cross and dove. The inspiration comes from Ephesians 4:4-6, **One God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

On February 8, 2020, despite flooding and snow, 42 gathered at Ebenezer UMC for our New Visions Event. Rev. Leah Burns, Associate Pastor at historic Second United Methodist Church in Knoxville, was our speaker and reminded us that we are the hope of the world, and we should pass our light into a darkened world. Sharon Earl, Wesley House Director of Client Services, joined us and picked up the many needed items for Wesley House. Thank you, Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women, for your generosity!

Day Apart will be held on March 21, 2020, at Green Meadow UMC, Alcoa. Rev. Sarah Slack, Maryville First UMC, will be our worship leader. Dona McConnell and Pat Bellingrath will be with us to share about the mission of Beacon of Hope. Our hands-on-mission project will be Beacon of Hope, Vestal UMC, Knoxville. A list of needed items will accompany the registration. The registration form and list of items are also available on our website and Facebook page.

April will be a busy month for United Methodist Women! We will travel to Mobile, AL, for the Southeast Jurisdictional Quadrennial Meeting April 17 through 19th. Scholarships are available for the event; please let me know if you are interested. The next weekend, RISE will be held on April 24 - 26, 2020 at MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge. Katie Pryor will be the speaker and will talk about Maternal/Child Health. Adoration will once again provide the music. Bishop Taylor will speak on Sunday. We are challenged to make, knit, sew or crochet 30" x 30" baby blankets to be given to children's hospitals or other agencies. If you are unable to attend RISE, but would like to donate baby blankets, please let me know and I will pick up the blankets and coordinate with Lori Sluder, Holston Conference UMW, as to where they should be distributed. Once again, scholarships are available; please let me know if you are interested.

I hope you are able to attend this year's Mission u as we travel once again to beautiful Abingdon, VA. Mission u will be held at Pleasant View UMC, July 24-25, 2020. Our studies will be Spiritual Growth: *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* by Erin James-Brown; Social Issue: *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique Morris; Geographic: *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission* by Ellen Blue; Youth: *Managing Anxiety*; Children: *Managing Our Emotions*. Registration will be coming out soon. Scholarships are available through the Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women. Please let me know if you are interested.

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

The Connecting Link

PRECIOUS UMW MEMORIES

Happy New Year to All! I am Kay Phillips, the Keeper of Your Stuff! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior and enjoying that time in your own traditions.

For the time that I serve as your District Archivist, I am responsible for maintaining your UMW memories and traditions. Please send me information and/or pictures (persons in the pictures should be identified, please) of activities or special events in your United Methodist Women groups. Also, if there is a loss of a member due to death in your local unit, please send me that obituary or any special thoughts you would like to leave as a legacy for that person. I will be most happy to include any information of this type in the District Archives.

Please send any information to me at donaldphilips07@comcast.net or mail to 1401 Blue Ridge Way, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Kay Phillips
Archivist/Historian

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone's 2020 has been off to a good start. My favorite groundhog said that Spring is right around the corner. I sure hope he's right.

I'll start with an update on year-end 2019. Unfortunately, we did not make our Pledge to Mission. The Smoky Mountain District Pledge was set at \$69,300, and we gave \$47,972. Nevertheless, \$47 thousand *plus* is a tremendous amount to have sent in, and I am extremely proud of all our local units who gave so generously last year.

For 2020, the Holston Conference has once again set the Smoky Mountain UMW District Pledge at \$69,300. Whether we get to that lofty goal this year or not, I know that we will do the best we can. I can tell you we got off to a great start at our District New Visions event, held at Ebenezer on February 8th. Our offering was \$443, and the ladies at Ebenezer generously donated the refreshments following the event, so that every penny of the registration money was able to go to the District's Pledge to Mission, for a total of \$628 – a wonderful amount of money to have collected at a single event! (Perhaps we can try to beat that at our Day Apart event on March 21st!)

Many of you have picked up Gift to Mission/Gift in Memory cards at our events. I have ordered a fresh

assortment of cards from Mission Resources, and they should arrive in time for Day Apart. So, be sure to check those out and replenish your supply. As a reminder, they are free to take, and you give \$5.00 to your Unit Treasurer as you use them. Your Unit Treasurer sends in that money with your quarterly remittance. Sending these cards is a simple way to add funds towards our Pledge.

See you at Day Apart!

Blessings,
Kim Henry

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

My morning routine includes our UMW Prayer Calendar with the lectionary scripture for the day and the daily devotionals **Our Daily Bread** and **The Upper Room**. As you know, the scripture and meditations are submitted and compiled a couple of years before publishing. I have been amazed over the years how the scripture and stories in these periodicals exactly fit my situation at the very moment I need them. This morning it happened again. I awoke with an uncluttered mind but my "to do" lists suddenly raised their irritating little heads. I didn't want to check my emails, make the phone calls, or address the other chores that have been put on the back burner. My perspective was changed when I read the following from **Our Daily Bread** (Feb. 2020) written by Julie Schwab: "What we do matters, but how we do it, why, and who we do it for matters more. Each day we can choose to work in a stressed-out way or in a way that honors God and seeks out the meaning Jesus adds to our work. When we pursue the latter, we find satisfaction." Guess what? I made the phone calls, checked my emails, and completed those other chores. We can be "preached at" in many different ways when we least expect it!

Our annual Day Apart will be March 21, at Green Meadow in Alcoa. Rev. Sarah Slack will lead us in worship and our music will be led by Rev. Timothy Hankins. Representatives from Vestal's Beacon of Hope will share about the ministry that is now a part of Smoky Mountain District's outreach. Registration will be forthcoming. I encourage you to take the time to set apart this day for reflection and refreshment for your soul.

Glenda Eastridge
Spiritual Growth

THE JOURNEY—continued from page 1

I hope you will be able to take part in some of these events during the year. United Methodist Women, 800,000 strong, are truly One Body, One Spirit! Thank you for your support and your service. Together we are changing lives of women, children and youth around the world!

Blessings,
Susan

MISSION U 2020

Welcome to the “Roaring ‘20s” and a new year for United Methodist Women to continue fulfilling its PURPOSE! The Holston Conference Mission u Committee is hard at work to create a great event this year.

Mission u 2020 will be once again at Pleasant View United Methodist Church in Abingdon, VA, and will be held July 24-25, 2020. As always, Mission u offers a great opportunity to learn from mission studies that provide motivation, information, education and enrichment.

The mission studies offered in 2020 will be:

Finding Peace in an Anxious World – Spiritual Growth study facilitated by leaders Jennifer McIntyre, Rev. Linda Ray, and Nickie Simmons. Elizabeth Hernandez will once again lead the Spanish study.

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools – Issue Study which focuses on the school-to-prison pipeline led by Krystal Gourley and Rev. Mike Sluder

Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission - second-year study led by Becky Hall

Managing Anxiety – Youth study led by Crystal Ragan

Managing Our Emotions – Children’s study led by Kacye Castenir

Our theme this year will be **The Way of Peace: Our Longing for Community**. I would like to stress that some areas of Mission u are determined in advance by National UMW; therefore, we cannot change or rewrite the content that is provided for our use. This would include themes, content of the plenaries, and music selections. Much effort has been put into the writing and planning of Mission u programs, so we will make every effort to make these parts of our program as meaningful and as clear as possible.

We experienced much success with our initial offer of a Spanish study last year, so we are again providing this study for our Hispanic members of Holston Conference. Please share this information so that all are aware that Mission u is a welcoming community.

More information about Mission u will be shared as we move closer to the date. Please make plans now to attend Mission u. You will be so glad you did!

Kay Phillips
Mission u Dean

SOCIAL ACTION

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Mark your calendars for August 22, 2020 and plan to attend the 1st ever joint Social Action Event. We will be sponsoring a joint event with the Tennessee Valley District. Our topic this year is Human Trafficking, and our hands-on missions will go towards “Raising A Voice” in Knoxville. Their agency is our keynote speaker. A panel of speakers include Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Homeland Security, local law enforcement agents and possibly a TBI agent. This “crime” is local, federal and global. The more people trained and knowledgeable means less victims and more victims identified. You are in for a real enlightening and knowledgeable day. Please plan to attend and show support for our joint event as well as support to all the agencies and speakers who will be volunteering their time. Watch for details in the coming months.

Alice Nichols
Social Action Event Coordinator



The Connecting Link

NEWS FROM OUR SECRETARY

LOCAL UNIT SECRETARY – PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE ON OFFICER CHANGES

THANK YOU for serving as Secretary of your Local Unit.

As a Local Unit Secretary, your main job is to assist your Leadership Team in handling the mission business of the unit by keeping accurate minutes finished as soon as possible after a meeting, at least for me, while my memory is still good!

Your other important job is assisting us with communication to the Local Unit. Hopefully, you sent your 2020 Local Unit Officers to District Secretary Sandra Guinn. If not, please send those as soon as possible. This contact information is used for

- the Smoky Mountain District *Connecting Link*, which is sent to ALL Local Unit officers, and
- the Holston Conference *Holstonian*, which is sent to ALL Local Unit Presidents.

Once I have your officer contact information, it is also important to notify me of any changes during the year such as a new email or a new address or phone. And, of course, notify me if any new officers are appointed.

Everyone always wants to know what is going on, and it is impossible to communicate if we do not have contact information.



Please contact me at any time if you have questions! We truly appreciate your willingness to serve as a Local Unit Secretary. We literally could not carry on our business of mission to women, children, and youth around the world without you!!!

Sandra Guinn

Smoky Mountain District UMW Secretary

408 E 3rd Ave.

Lenoir City, TN 37771

sjguinn336@charter.net

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

The Charter for Racial Justice Committee met on January 31. I wanted to share with you some highlights that were discussed. The Charter for Racial Justice is being brought back to the forefront of our minds in various ways this year. A CD is being made for each local unit to have and share as a possible program for your unit. Each unit is encouraged to have a copy of the Charter for your UMW members. Susan will be ordering them, and they will be available at the President/Treasurers Training. Units are encouraged to read books on Racism and discuss, as well as possibly organizing a worship service on racial justice. Most importantly, the Mission Today form is being revised this year to include more emphasis on the Charter for Racial Justice. Units will have to meet 3 out of 8 of the requirements this year. Also, on the UMW website, there is a download "Tools for Resources" that might be used to help meet the requirement. To access available resources for upcoming meetings and or new information, visit this website:

<https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice>

Alice Nichols
Racial Justice Committee Member



EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

I retired two years ago after serving on the Holston Conference Connectional Ministries staff for ten years. If you are nearing retirement or are part of the retired population now, most likely someone has told you that you will be busier during retirement than you were when you worked. That's probably true, but the difference in working and being retired is that you get to choose what makes you busy.

Since part of my ministry before retirement was with advocacy ministries, joining the district leadership team as Education and Interpretation seemed to be a natural fit for me as I seek to find new ways to channel my energies. I may be retired, but I still have a lot to offer and United Methodist Women provides a way for us all to serve.

One of the things I tried to avoid when I was working was filling out reports. If you are like me, it's not one of your favorite things to do either. If that's true for you, I'd like to encourage you to reconsider the Mission Action Report each unit is encouraged to complete at the end of each year. It may be tempting to look at the report as just another way to qualify for a Gold, Silver or Bronze award for your unit, but the report can be so much more — if you start 2020 with the report as your guide.

Why not take the Mission Action Report and use it as a planning guide as you plan your year for your unit? It can remind you of things you can do to help the district and conference better serve your local unit. It can also give you ideas for programs and missional projects your unit can plan for the coming year. The report can be a great planning tool to help guide you to a great year serving your church and community and at the end of 2020, you may be surprised at how much your local UMW has accomplished.

If you need help with any of the guidelines, your district officers are here to help. A copy of the report is available on our website. I look forward to working with your unit in the coming months.

Gaye King
Education and Interpretation



SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION NEWS

IT'S HERE!! The Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting you have been waiting for is just around the corner. Registration closed March 15, so we sincerely hope everyone that wants to go has been able to register.

The SEJ Quadrennial Meeting will be April 17-19, 2020, at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 S. Water St., Mobile, AL. If you will be attending this meeting, we look forward to being with you for this time of worship, music, workshops and fellowship. If you are not registered or are unable to attend this meeting, we will miss seeing you there.

Look for information later after the meeting in April to find out where the next Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting will be held. We hope you can make plans to attend the next meeting.

Kay Phillips
SEJ Treasurer

RISE 2020

RISE is a Holston Conference United Methodist Women's community mission event that will give women an opportunity to learn more about what it means to serve Christ in mission, to work on a hands-on mission project(s) and to worship and fellowship together.

RISE 2020 will be April 24-26, 2020 at the MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge, TN. Our Missions Focus will be Maternal Child Health and our speaker will be Katie Pryor, Maternal Child Health, United Methodist Women, National. Our Hand-On Project will be bringing or making baby blankets and bringing a baby bottle filled with change or bills. Brochure and Registration form can be found on our website.

NOMINATIONS

Welcome to 2020! I hope your New Year is off to a good start. It just seems like yesterday that I was shopping for Christmas presents and wrapping them, and here comes March.

I would like to visit some of our units, especially those new to the Smoky Mountain District. I enjoy meeting other UMW members and hearing about your activities. I will be calling to find out when your meetings are scheduled and see if it is convenient for me to visit. I just want to say hello and answer any questions you may have. If I can be of any assistance, please let me know by telephone: 865-609-3466 or email: nancylampe1024@comcast.net. I look forward to seeing you.

Nancy Lampe
Nominations Chair

LOCAL UNIT NEWS

BROADWAY UMW

One Dec. 2, 103 members and guests of Broadway United Methodist Women enjoyed an evening of fellowship and inspiration at our second annual "A Gathering at Advent." Eleven UMW hostesses decorated tables and provided dessert for ladies assigned to their tables. The fellowship hall was transformed into a "Woodland Bistro" of sparkling lights, trees, and creatures by the talented decoration committee led by Kerry Trundle and Barbara Bailey. After the delicious desserts, Rev. Laura Rasor installed our 2020 UMW officers. Our speaker, Janice Maynard, inspired the attendees with a message about being true to oneself. She also spoke about the mission of Susannah's House. We collected over \$1500 in a love offering to aid the work at Susannah's House!



WEARS VALLEY UMW

The Wears Valley UMW will hold its 2020 Annual Tea Party on Saturday May 9th, the day before Mother's Day. We honor mothers and all they do.

Last year we had 80 ladies attend and we expect to be fully booked again this year. The proceeds go to local charities and mission programs. Our tea was such a success last year, and we are very excited and already planning for this year's event.



Trinity—Lenoir City

The Trinity United Methodist Women “Spring Sale” tradition began in 1988. The date for this year’s sale is April 3rd and 4th. This event raises most of our Mission Giving money for the year. The proceeds are distributed via the UMW District, Conference, and national connections and also to many local projects that help women, children and youth.

In 2019, we met our unit’s Pledge to Missions and donated to Wesley House, Henderson Settlement, Red Bird Mission, Brighter Future for Children & Youth, Susannah’s House, UMCOR, the Kids First Child Advocacy Center, The Crisis Center for Women—IVAS, Phillips Lifeline (Emergency Alert System), the Trinity Mattress Ministry, the Boys & Girls Club of Loudon County, the Good Samaritan Center of Loudon Co., and the Panther Pack Weekend Food Program at Lenoir City Elementary.

The church is located at 300 W 2nd Avenue, Lenoir City, TN 37771, and the sale entrance to the Fellowship Hall is on the C Street side of the church. Sale hours are 9:00 AM – 5:00 on Friday and 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Saturday.

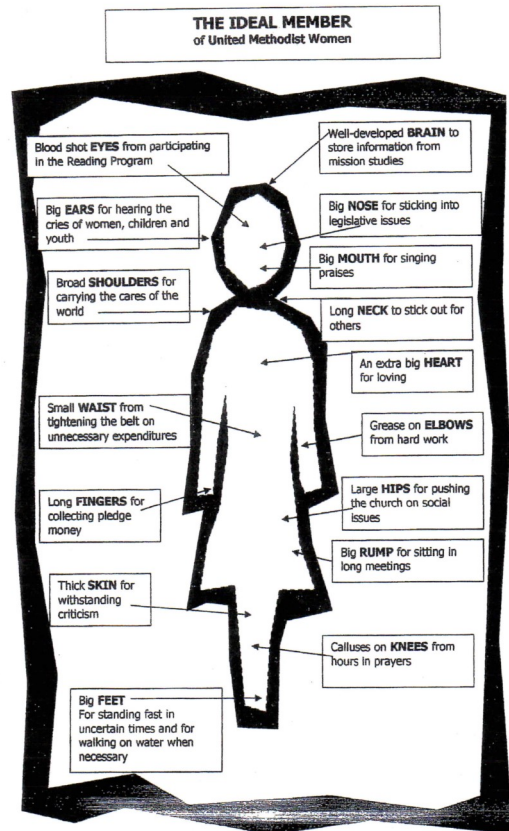
This event is a gigantic “sale” that features children’s clothing and toys, home goods, craft supplies, holiday decorations, shoes, handbags, jewelry, clothing for adults and children, and all kinds of dishes, pots, pans, luggage, and miscellaneous items. All items are donated by church members and friends, and the entire church, not just UMW members, helps with the week-long setup and cleanup on Saturday afternoon.

Our prices are very competitive, and many in our local community are served. Items remaining at the end of the sale are donated to veterans’ organizations, United Methodist mission projects and local thrift stores. EACH item goes to a deserving home.

There is a bake sale with delicious items prepared by church members.

The men of Trinity will be on the sidewalk selling furniture, bicycles, outdoor items, and things you must have!

Please join us on Friday – Saturday, April 3-4, to see what “treasures” are waiting for you.



LOCAL UNIT NEWS

MORE PICTURES FROM LOCAL UNIT EVENTS



PICTURES FROM WEARS VALLEY UMW VICTORIAN TEA PARTY 2019

LOCAL UNIT NEWS

MORE PICTURES FROM LOCAL UNIT EVENTS



PICTURES FROM BROADWAY UMW
ADVENT EVENT 2019

Hands and Feet in Mission

At our New Visions event on February 8 at Ebenezer UMC, Glenda Eastridge, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, shared our Prayer Calendar. Earlier that morning, Glenda had emailed Quynh-Hoa, one of our missionaries, wishing her a happy birthday and thanking her for being our hands and feet in mission. We lifted up in prayer Quynh-Hoa and the others from the Prayer Calendar. Glenda received a sweet email from Quynh thanking her our birthday wishes and prayers.

Here are copies of the emails exchanged. Remember, it only take a few minutes to make someone's day with just an email or a card.

Happy, Happy Birthday Quynh-Hoa from the United Methodist Women of the Smoky Mountain District in Holston Conference! We will lift you up in our prayers during our New Vision event this afternoon. Thank you for being our hands and feet in mission. Through your efforts we are making a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth in your community.

Glenda Eastridge
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Thanks, Glenda, for celebrating my birthday. I really appreciate your birthday prayers and wishes. May God abundantly bless you and UMW of the Smoky Mountain District!

Quynh

