



United Methodist Women 2019

Saint Marks United Methodist Women (UMW) ended the year with our annual Christmas meeting held on Sunday, December 16 after worship. A wonderful lunch from the Olive Garden was enjoyed by the thirty in attendance. Alice Anne Robertson lead the group in singing carols and Rev. Mark shared a Christmas story about the robin in the nativity. Rev. Anne installed the officers for 2019. Three outgoing officers were recognized, Beverly Bisbee, Dorothy Siemiaczko and Carole Cline. Anita Ellis conducted the pledge service for 2019.

The UMW Conference Social Action Priorities for 2019 are Hunger, Addiction and Maternal Health. We will have quarterly unit meetings and monthly Leadership Team meetings. The dates and themes for the quarterly meetings are as follows; *March 17, Prayer and Self Denial, June 9, Gabriel Project, September 15, The Reading Program and World Thank Offering and December 15, Annual Christmas meeting.* We will also have our annual **UMW Sunday on October 13**. This year will be a very special time celebrating the 150 Anniversary of United Methodist Women. There will be several opportunities for mission work days. We have already decided to return to Heart and Hand and work in the Thrift Store, sorting clothing donations Should anyone have other mission projects or ideas we are open for suggestions.

We encourage participation in UMW activities sponsored by the District and Conference. It provides wonderful learning experiences, nourishes our spiritual growth and provides excellent opportunities to meet and expand friendships with other United Methodist Women. There is a Spring and Fall District Meeting, this year the spring meeting is April 27 at Bruce McDonald UMC in Logan and the fall meeting is September 21 at Montgomery UMC. The Annual State Meeting is October 25 and 26 in Bluefield. Two

outstanding learning experiences are the Spiritual Growth Retreat, March 22 and 23 and Mission u, June 27 and 29, both at Cedar Lakes.

Ministry One, "One Person, One Item, One Life Made Better ", will continue but will be limited to three collections. During the month of January cereal will be collected for the Covenant House Food Pantry. In May breakfast foods will be collected for Heart and Hand and in November and December the Giving Tree will be in the Narthex collecting hats, gloves, scarfs and socks. Instead of continually collecting items we felt it was better to focus on three initiatives. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

In addition to pledges it is necessary to have a couple of fund raisers to support our work. We are planning another spaghetti dinner in September, due to the huge success last year. The Terri Lynn nuts and candy may be sold again. By the way, we still have items left from this year so it is not too late to get these delicious nuts and candy. We will sell items in the New Room after the Holidays. Should you want any sooner contact Anita Ellis or Robin Musick. Again, we appreciate your purchases.

My hope for Saint Marks United Methodist Women is to be an active, viable organization that focuses on Mission for those who are less fortunate while supporting each other. You can get involved through participation in one of our mission work days, a fund raiser, a circle meeting, or making a pledge. We would love to see you at one of our quarterly unit meetings. Come, get involved and help us make a difference.

Margaret Waybright
President