

**The United Methodist Women met in Room 303 at Pleasant View UMC on February 4, 2021.**

Attending were Melissa Belcher, Barbara Farmer, Angela Gilbert, Dixie Medford, Karen Radnoczi, Jeannette Sanders, Vickie Scyphers, Cathy Swindall, Jeannene Thompson, Brenda Walch, Kathy Whisman. Attending for the first time were Carla Jarvis and Bryson.

President, Cathy Swindall, welcomed the group, opened with a prayer, and led the group in reciting the **UMW Purpose**.

Brenda called our attention to the **Prayer Calendar**, and we observed the birthdays of missionaries Kabaka Alphonsine in Tanzania and Matthew Laferty in Austria. Simone Wilson, on staff in NYC, was also celebrated. The Mission Focus was the Methodist Church of Columbia which is working to improve the health of members of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities through community health education, targeted screening, and treatment.

The **Response Moment** shared by Brenda told of the Western North Carolina UMW and their 3- day virtual spiritual retreat last year. Their meetings, messages, and music, traditionally held at beautiful Junaluska came instead from homes and sanctuaries through Zoom. They were viewed on Facebook and You Tube by over 1200 people! Just as Esther was made queen at just the right time to bring relief and deliverance to her people, these women felt perhaps UMW has been enabled to share spiritual relief and deliverance to all those viewers living through the stress and uncertainty of COVID-19 in this modern day "time such as this." We are invited to share those sessions on their website at [wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2020](http://wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2020).

Cathy's **Devotion** from "Mornings With Jesus," reminded us to take time to show kindness and compassion at every opportunity, even on our most rushed and overscheduled days. 1 Peter 3:8 tells us: "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

**Minutes** of the December 2020 meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Jeannette and seconded by Brenda.

The December 2020 **Treasurer's Report** was summarized by Cathy. Since there was no meeting in January, the December report was shared. Opening balance was \$2,092.04 with receipts of \$ 2,825.85 and spendings of \$2,426.35, leaving a balance of \$2,491.54 to begin our new year and February.

**Correspondence** - Cathy read a thank you note from Highlands Community Services for the \$690 donation we made in December to the Children's Advocacy Center. She also showed cards we received expressing appreciation for remembering them through our card ministry from Dave Carraway, Thelma Blake, Opal Miller, Don and Delores Fry, and Ricky Johnson.

## Program

Brenda and Vickie presented the **Pledge to Missions Program**. Matthew 22:36-39 tells us that Jesus said this is the greatest Commandment, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." He also said, "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36

We are called to share the love of God and to put faith, hope and love into action through our missions. Vickie led us in a litany to affirm our call to missions, and several ladies shared some of the ways our group has shared God's love in the past. Carla shared her longing to have an orphanage and told about her relationship on Facebook with a friend who has an orphanage in Uganda. The 45 children living there are hungering for the word of God, and Carla is praying for a way to help them have Bibles. She showed us a video of their joyful reaction when being told about her prayers.

Sandy gave out **Pledge Cards** for the new year, and Cathy explained that we may make a **Pledge** to the Conference for missions tonight which can be paid all at once or in smaller payments any time between now and November. There is no obligation to make a Pledge nor any penalty if you aren't able to fulfill a Pledge made. **Offerings** are givings made monthly or at any time during the year for missions supported by our local unit.

Jeannene was presented with a pin in recognition of being a **2020 Five Star Woman**. This designation is for giving to missions through each of the UMW's five channels of giving.

**Installation of Officers** – Barbara Farmer installed officers for 2021:

President - Cathy Swindall, Treasurer – Sandy Thompson, Secretary – Karen Radnoczi

In a touching candle lighting ceremony, everyone was reminded to share the light of Jesus and bear that light to the world. All attending affirmed our call to mission and remembered our baptisms by making the sign of the cross on our foreheads with water.

## Old Business

- **2020 Mission Action Report to Conference** – Cathy shared that we reported mission givings of \$3,459 to seven ministries and gifts of various items needed to nine other groups, ministries or agencies in 2020. More details are in the February church newsletter.
- **Fundraisers** – Cathy reported we have paid for the **cookbooks** and have made \$725 in profit so far. We have \$247.90 from **RADA Sales**. We made \$1,309.25 from **the 2020 Valentine Sweet Treats Sale**. (Total for 2020 – \$2,282.15)

- **Mission Projects:** The group agreed to continue sending **birthday cards to our estimated 22 Pleasant View college students** with a \$20 bill enclosed. Jeannette needs stamps. She will be sending 30 Valentine **cards to shut-ins** next week. We will continue sending **snacks to the cancer centers** and will collect **diapers for Haven of Rest**. Cathy will call Marjorie Tester to see if **Road to Recovery** continues to need our help and if they have been getting items they need from our collection boxes. Brenda will keep in touch with **Abuse Alternatives** to see when they can resume taking purses and donations of household goods.

### **New Business**

- **Clinch Mountain District UMW President/Vice-President Event** will be hosted by Pleasant View UMC Sunday afternoon, February 21 at 2:30. Set up will be minimal as no meal will be served. We could provide a bottled water and an individually wrapped snack. Cathy will attend and hopes Vickie and Brenda will help set up and attend since they are essentially performing the duties a vice-president would do. Around 25 are expected.
- **Cookbooks-** There are about 6 cases of cookbooks left. Ideas for additional sales are needed! Cathy will see H.B. about creating a page on the church website where folks could purchase cookbooks or RADA. Other ideas were to offer them at the District meeting on the 21st; promote for Valentine, Easter, or “Just Because” gifts; and to promote on social media.
- **Additional Mission Projects to Consider** – Brenda suggested Carla bring us more information about the **orphanage in Uganda** so we could help see they get the Bibles they would like to have. Jeannette suggested **splitting the diapers collected for Haven of Rest with Faith in Action**, and Cathy suggested adding diapers to our list for collection boxes in the church. Barbara said **Faith in Action** also needs adult diapers. Kathy Whisman suggested we make a **mission donation in memory of Elizabeth Cunningham**. Due to the late hour, further discussion about whether to continue gifts to schools, new missions, and how to spend our funds on hand was tabled until next time.
- **Program Committee Update** – Brenda and Vickie would welcome any ideas for new programs. Cathy suggested a program on the orphanage in Uganda, and Barbara suggested a program on Faith in Action by Brad and Tracy Farmer.

Brenda closed with prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Radnoczi, Secretary