

The United Methodist Women met in Room 303 at Pleasant View UMC at 6:30 pm on March 2, 2021.

Attending were Ruth Adkins, Angela Gilbert, Dixie Medford, Karen Radnoczi, Jeannette Sanders, Vickie Scyphers, Brenda Somers, Cathy Swindall, Jeannene Thompson, Sandy Thompson, Brenda Walch, Kathy Whisman. Attending for the first time were Carol Hess, Marjorie Tester, and Tracey Farmer, our speaker for this evening.

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 March 2 birthdays of missionary Joel Ncahour in Cameroon and Isabel Scott, on staff in Atlanta. The **Mission Focus** was the Global Health Action of the United States which is building the capacity of China's National Health Commission to develop policies and practices to support quality daycare services for children ages 0-3.

The **Response Moment** shared by Brenda W. described the "Books for Babies" program of the Morris, Illinois UMW. They have collected hundreds of books which are donated to the local maternity hospital. The family of each baby born there receives a book with the group's best wishes and contact information enclosed. Brenda thought we might want to consider doing something similar in the future for the babies of the addicted mommies served by Laura Plaster's Wheels of C.A.R.E. program.

For the **Devotion**, Angela shared an intriguing personal story about an angel sent in the form of a dog to protect her and her young children while Dale was away.

Minutes of the February 2020 meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Brenda W. and seconded by Vickie. One member's name was omitted from those attending, and that has been corrected.

The February 2021 **Treasurer's Report** was summarized by Cathy. Opening balance was \$2,491.54 with receipts of \$1,416.43 and spendings of \$770.00, leaving a balance of \$3,137.97 going forward into March.

Correspondence – Jeannette will be sending a birthday card and \$20 to 5 of our college students between now and April. Kathy W. wanted us to be aware that Jeannette is buying the cards herself and said she will be helping her do that in the future.

Program

Tracey Farmer visited to share the story of how she and her husband Brad were led to their leadership and ministry positions at Faith in Action. It was clear that God had been preparing Brad through several jobs and his education through the years to be ready at just the right time to step into the

leadership role of this mission outreach serving those living in poverty or having a crisis situation. Three years ago, as Larry Bays was searching for a replacement for himself as director, and Brad and Tracey were praying for more time to spend with their family and in ministry; circumstances brought them together while planning a motorcycle fundraiser for Faith in Action. Larry immediately felt God had sent Brad to take his place and asked him to prayerfully consider it. As Brad and Tracey asked God to open the door if it was His will, they stepped through and have been busily immersed in the ministries of Faith in Action ever since.

We learned that Faith in Action is a mission outreach serving those living in poverty or in a financial crisis situation in Abingdon and Washington County. It is supported by 40 local churches, private donations, USDA, and local grocery stores. It has served up to 800 families a month through the Stone Soup Food Pantry, the New Life Thrift Shop, and Crossroads Medical Mission. It also provides financial crisis assistance for families who have lost jobs. Operating on the foundation of the Greatest Commandments revealed by Jesus in Matthew 22:35-40, it welcomes volunteers and the support of the community. We are invited to join in loving God by loving our neighbors in need through the ministries of Faith in Action.

Ways we can help:

- **Volunteer** – Call 628-4813 or stop by. You may volunteer as an individual or as a group.
- **Donate Food, Household and Hygiene Products for the Pantry** (boxed cereal; canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats; detergents, cleaning supplies, trash bags, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, large diapers or pull-ups etc.)
- **Donate Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry, Small Appliances, Household Furnishings for the Thrift Shop**
- **ALL donations should be taken to the food pantry at 798 Hillman Highway on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between the hours of 8:00 am-3:00 pm.**

Old Business

- **Contact List** was circulated for additions or corrections
- **George and Judy Young** are at Duke this week where she will be receiving an experimental treatment. She has been very weak and in quite a bit of pain. Their daughter will be coming this Friday to stay for a while, and George has asked that we suspend taking meals. He is very appreciative of all the church has done so far. Cathy S. will send out word when we need to resume meals. **Please continue to pray for Judy and George.**
- **Ongoing ministries:** We will continue with the birthday card/\$20 gift for college students, the snacks for the cancer centers, paper products for Bristol Road to Recovery, and diaper drive for Haven of Rest which will be shared with Faith in Action this year.
- **UMW District Meeting** here went well. Two cookbooks were sold.

New Business

- **Money for Ministries** – Since Washington County Schools are receiving a substantial amount of COVID relief money this year, it was decided that we will choose 5 ministries we want to support and divide \$2,500.00 equally to buy the supplies or products they need most. The ministries named were:
 1. **Children’s Advocacy Center** – We will get a list of current needs when their director comes to speak next month.
 2. **Bristol Recovery Road** – Marjorie expressed a need for a stove. If one can be secured through the church office, we will purchase other supplies for the house.
 3. **Faith in Action** – Brenda W. and Vickie will shop and deliver items from the list we heard tonight.
 4. **KARM – (Knox Area Rescue Ministries)** – Jeannette and Dixie will shop and deliver items needed by the men Stan works with at KARM.
 5. **Orphanage in Uganda** – When we receive more information from Carla Jarvis about this orphanage and the Bibles they would like to have, we will decide how we can best support this need.
- **Day Apart 2021** sign-up sheet was passed around. The meeting is March 20 at 10:00 at Abingdon UMC. \$10 registration is due March 17. The meeting will be livestreamed on their church’s Facebook page.
- **Call to Prayer and Self Denial** – There will be a ZOOM meeting Sunday, March 14, at 4:00, conducted by the chaplain of E&H. Details on how to participate will be forwarded as soon as they are received.
- **Invitations** – Cathy asks that we invite friends directly to come join us. Nothing works like a personal invitation. When you have asked someone, please let Judy Hayden know. She will follow up with a written note of encouragement and welcome.
- **Collection Boxes** – Cathy asked for someone to take charge of checking the UMW Collection boxes for donations to our ministries and getting those donations to the appropriate place or person. Jeannette volunteered to accept this position.

Marjorie closed with prayer around our goods for Bristol Recovery Road and the Cancer Centers. The meeting was adjourned with a moment of levity provided by Angela.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Radnoczi, Secretary