I hope you had a Merry Christmas and that 2014 is a wonderful year for you. I have enjoyed serving as your president for one year. I especially enjoyed meeting so many of our UMW members on the Farmville District. During 2014 I want to visit as many units as possible. Please invite me. Keep up the good work.

2013 was a busy year on the Farmville District. We had a wonderful Prayer Breakfast on March 2, an informative Mission Study on April 13, and an inspirational Day Apart on December 7. Thank you to everyone who assisted with these events in any way. Please try to attend as many District events as possible. Some of our members attended UM Day at the General Assembly in January, the Spiritual Life Retreat in May, UMW Day at Ferrum College in June, Mission Encounter in July, and the Young Women’s Event in September. During 2014 please attend as many Conference meetings as possible. When I attend District and Conference events, I always learn more about our responsibilities as UMW members. Thank you so much for assisting our District in meeting our Pledge to Mission.

Thank you to the units for getting your officer reports to Alice Johnson, our secretary. If you have not gotten this information to her, please send it as soon as possible. We need the information for the directory/handbook which will be given out at the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 8 at Brian’s Steakhouse in South Hill. I hope you have returned your membership count to Sherry Guerrant. Shery needs to send this information to the Conference before the end of January. If you have any questions or concerns about these reports please contact Alice, Sherry or myself.

I will be unable to attend the Prayer Breakfast because the Conference Mission Team will be meeting in Lynchburg on March 8. I will miss being with you. I know Jane Smith, our new Spiritual Growth coordinator, is planning an interesting program. The food was delicious last year. A registration form for the Prayer Breakfast is included in this newsletter.

Our next District Executive Committee meeting will be on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at Crenshaw United Methodist Church at 9:30 am. This meeting is for the District officers, but all UMW members are invited. We will be planning for 2014. Betsy Hanmer

Please feel free to contact me. My telephone number is 434-736-9241. My email address is bhanmer@verizon.net. My address is P. O. Box 206, Keysville, VA 23947

Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center

It has been an important year at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center. Last year they had an aging boiler that guzzled fuel. In the last month the completion and installation of a new energy efficient bio-mass boiler has occurred. In addition, the aging boiler house has had an amazing facelift. All in time for the winter chill! VUMAC has found a local supply for the wood pellets the new boiler will use.

(Continued on page 2)
Remember to make your “Dimes for Blackstone” offerings so the “Blackstone experience” is available to thousands of youth, UM Men and Women, Camp Rainbow, our ministers and those of other denominations will be able to continue to come.

Virginia Ann Broyles

From the District Vice President

Happy New Year to all our UMW members and supporters of the Farmville District. We have a productive year behind us and hopefully we will do as well during this brand new year.

Let me encourage you to attend the District meetings, as much planning goes into them. By attending we will be closer bound together in fellowship as we pursue our “PURPOSE”. It is always a pleasure for me to meet members face to face.

May our Lord richly bless you and your families in the year 2014 with a joyful hearts, good health and prosperity. In Your service

Hedy Thomas

Ladies mark your calendars:

February 8th—UM Day at the General Assembly in Richmond, Va.

March 8th—Prayer Breakfast, Brian’s Steak House in South Hill, Va.

Hedy Thomas, 1700 Lee Drive, Farmville, Va. 23901

Education and Interpretation

Happy New Year to all the UMW on the Farmville District!!! May this be a very successful year for your local UMW unit and may we all work together this year to continue to turn faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

Begin 2014 on a positive note!!! Encourage your local unit to become a Mission Today Unit this year! The forms for 2014 are available and very similar to the 2013 forms. Start this month checking the items on the forms and make sure you complete as many as possible during the year. By completing these items we continue to be Christ’s hands, feet and voices to women, children and youth in our local areas as well as around the world. By working together we will make a difference and we will continue to spread God’s love to everyone.

As a New Year’s Resolution for 2014 let’s all try to increase our worship and prayer time. Life is so demanding and full and often our quiet time with God may suffer. Two easy ways to increase your worship and prayer time even when you’re driving and doing chores around the are: When you’re stopped at a red light, spend that time talking to God....It’s amazing how quickly the red light turns green!!! Also when you’re doing chores, exercising or walking, think of your favorite hymns and sing the words to yourself or out loud if you’re a good singer, (which I’m not)....This is one of my favorite things to do as I have so many favorite hymns. This brings peace and you can definitely feel God’s presence. The sanctuary of God is whenever and wherever you allow God’s presence and love into your normal day’s activities.

The District Mission Day is in the planning stages. We have set the date of April 12, 2014, as the time and our speaker will be Ken and Linda Carty who will talk to us on the Roma of Europe. Please mark this date on your calendar and listen for the place which will hopefully be announced soon. This will certainly be an interesting and educational day.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events. If you need any information on becoming a Mission Today unit please call or email me. My address is P.O. Box 83, Henrico, NC 27842 and my
email address is elainechipley@embarqmail.com.
Blessings to all of you in 2014  Elaine Chipley

Nominating Committee

Happy New Year to everyone in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord! Let me introduce you to our newest district officers for 2014. Many ladies are returning to their jobs or switching to new positions, but we have three brand new members of the mission team. They are Donna Scherpich, Jane Smith, and Becky Waters.

Jane Smith, a member of Farmville UMC, is our new Spiritual Growth Coordinator. She says, “I am originally from Luray, VA, but retired to the Farmville area after a 20 year career as director of religious education at Braddock Street UMC in Winchester. I live near Dillwyn and have a daughter and two granddaughters who live upstairs at Eureka Knoll Farm where horses are a big part of our daily lives.”

Becky Waters is the new Secretary of Program Resources. She states that “I have been active in UMW for many years at my previous church, Lakewood UMC in Richmond. My husband and I retired and moved back home to LaCrosse in October 2010 and became active in LaCrosse UMC. I look forward to reading many of the books on the reading list, as I think this is an important part of the UMW program.”

Donna Scherpich is a new member of the nominating committee from the Kingswood UMC in Bracey where she sings in the choir and teaches an adult Sunday School class. She says, “the mission work of the UMW meets a need I have to make a difference in our community. I am a former Marine Corps sergeant with five years of honorable service. I am taking the lay leader training course.”

Welcome to all of these new ladies, as well as our other team members: Betsy Hanmer, Hedy Thomas, Alice Johnson, Mary Fulton, Kathleen Mitchell, Elaine Chipley, Cecile Ford, Virginia Ann Broyles, Marilyn Johnson, Laura Jane Rash, Nancy Nelson, Tammy Skipwith, Harriet Garrett, and Brenda Lewis. They have committed to doing the jobs to the best of their abilities, knowing that serving in their office will require a commitment of their prayers, time, talent, and energies, while upholding the purpose and program of UMW. Our job is to continue to look for committed servants who are willing to take an office on the district....That could be YOU!!

In His service,
Thelma Crowder
Nominating Chairman

SOCIAL ACTION

The purpose of the Social Action Award is to encourage every UMW’s Unit to be involved in all aspects of social issues and to work to ensure that the words of Matthew 25:36 become a reality by advocating for justice. “I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

If we provide the poor with clothing, visit those who are ill, send supplies to those in prison, and support the prison Chaplains, most of our goals would be reached.

Our 2014 Social Action Award goals have undergone changes. The two-member goals have been changed to one member in items 2 through 5 and the number of books to read on Social Action has changed to two.

Let’s all focus on one of the following Farmville District’s 2014 Priorities:
1) Human Trafficking (also International Priority)
2) Poverty (also National Priority)  
3) Environment – Virginia Local Priority focusing on climate change, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, maintaining the ban on Uranium Mining, and studying the impact of and possible ban on hydrofracking in the George Washington National Forest.

Let’s join forces and fight for justice for women, children and youth. Remember, the period covered in our Social Action Award report is September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014.

Thanks to each of you for all that you do in your UMW unit!

Kathleen Mitchell

Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

Greetings to my fellow United Methodist Women. This coming year will be a learning experience for me as I will be serving as your Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator.

I am a member of Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Virgilina and have been active in my UMW unit for over 30 years. I have served as president for several years and attended many meetings and conferences at Blackstone. I look forward to meeting many of you at the various UMW functions throughout the coming year.

Cecile Ford

Farmville District Treasurer

Happy New Year to all our members and friends! 2013 was another great year for us and I know 2014 will be even better! Congratulations on helping us reach our pledge goal of $32,000. We turned in to the state treasurer $36,796.81 toward our pledge to undesignated giving. This is great for us. In total we turned in $46,668.63 to our state treasurer. We should all join in prayer that we can keep up our generous giving as we know our country and world continue to have disasters and terrible happenings.

Some of you have already sent in your World Thank offering and will be doing your Call to Prayer and Self-Denial soon. Don’t forget your AMD money is due in the 1st quarter. It remains $2 per member but many costs are increasing for us including postage.

If your unit has a new treasurer, please be sure that I know the name, address, phone number, and email address of your new treasurer. This is essential to be sure your unit gets the financial information they need.

Yours in Christ,

Mary Fulton

Coordinator of Spiritual Growth

As we begin this New Year together, let me say a few words about myself. I probably have the easiest name among the new district officers and may live in the smallest village—Curdsville, Virginia, a suburb of Dillwyn in Buckingham County. I am a member of Farmville United Methodist Church and past UMW President.

After serving for twenty years as director of religious education at Braddock Street UMC in Winchester, Virginia, I retired here to grow up with my only two granddaughters, Olivia and Elizabeth. Their mother, Rebecca is my only daughter.

Aside from community and church work, my passion is teaching school, and I substitute at Buckingham Middle School.

(Continued on page 5)
In the year ahead I look forward to forming friendships with you as we grow spiritually and attempt to do it effectively and joyfully in a very secular world around us.

On March 8, 2014, we will have our annual District Prayer Breakfast at Brian’s Steak House in South Hill. Our theme will be “The Kingdom of God Is A Party” and God willing, all of us will be there “making a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

Jane Smith

Program Resources

I am taking over the Program Resources for 2014 for Bonnie Oswald. I was an active UMW member for a quite a number of years while I was in the Ashland District in Richmond. I have always loved to read, and I guess it was because both of my grandmothers were teachers and several aunts also taught. My maternal grandmother attended Blackstone College which is now our Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center.

I have just finished reading The Dressmaker of Khair Khana which is in large print. It is in the category of Education for Mission for 2014. I think that everyone would enjoy reading about the sacrifices that Kamila Sidiqui made for her family when the Taliban took control of Kabul. Kamila became the sole breadwinner for her five sisters after her father and brother were forced to leave. She started a very successful sewing business in her home and helped teach others so they could help support their families.

Remember that you can still read books from previous years—2010-2013. The books from 2009 count until December 31, 2013. Some of these books that my circle has enjoyed are as follows:

I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced

More Bad Girls of the Bible

Laugh Your Way to Grace

Cesar Chavez

Green Church

Rubble Nation

Hope that everyone will have a Happy and Healthy 2014. Remember the winter months are a good time to curl up by the fire with a book or two from our Reading Lists.

Becky Waters

SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO 2014 ANNUAL SAMPLER

You have until April 1, 2014 to order your Annual Sampler at $40.00 which includes:

Mission Study, $10

Spiritual Growth Study, $10

Program Book, $10

Prayer Calendar, $14

Date Book, $1.50

Total is $45.50 but your cost is $40.00

English version is # K3157

You can order online: www.umwmissionresources.org

Order by phone: 800-305-9857

They also accept MasterCard and Visa.

Becky Waters

Program Resources
Farmville District U. M. W. Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Registration 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Cost $9.00 per person

Buffet Breakfast will include: eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, biscuits, toast, coffee & tea.

At Brian’s Steakhouse
625 East Atlantic Street
South Hill, VA 23970

Registration Deadline is February 25, 2014.

Please complete the following form.

___________________________________________________________________________
Name(s) of those attending:

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________  ______________________________________
Name and Phone Number of Contact Person

Church/Charge

Make checks payable to F. D. U. M. W. for $9.00 per person. Mail registration and payment to:

Carol Fields
114 Lakasie Drive
Farmville, VA 23901

If you need to contact her, her telephone number is 434-223-7590.
Marilyn Johnson
449 Nelson Lane
Charlotte Court House, VA 23923
District Communication Coordinator