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## "We Can - We Will Participate!"

This is the season of well-wishes for all. Include in your wishes this year those who are or have been victims of human trafficking and make your New Year Wish to be a part of **Running Out the Clock on Human Trafficking**.

The North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women plans for the 2019 Super Bowl Human Trafficking Campaign have been made, not without much prayer and lots of action by the planning committee. Over the past 10 years, United Methodist Women members have participated in the annual campaign to bring awareness to human trafficking during Super Bowl time each year. This year the North Georgia Conference is the host conference for the United Methodist Women Super Bowl Campaign. We are all aware that this is not the only time awareness and action is needed surrounding this injustice, but this event has served as one of the times to bring more focus and action.

The Conference Planning Committee would like to encourage each of you to become involved in this year's awareness and action. You will find more information surrounding the event, planned for **January 25-26, 2019** in this edition of The Reflector and Conference United Methodist Women website: [www.ngumw.org](http://www.ngumw.org). The goal is to have United Methodist Women members and others to be at the Central United Methodist Church for the tailgating and Praise/Worship service on Friday night and for the forum and training on Saturday which will end with a sending forth to act. We are asking that each district in the conference participate in this event. Please let us know if you have a group from your church or district that are interested in attending one or both days. Online registration for the free event is available on the United Methodist Women Conference website and at <https://northga-reg.brapp.com/2019UMWROC>

If you cannot come to the events planned for Central, you can make plans to bring awareness by sharing the campaign information with your church, unit and community. Prayer is needed for the planned event by United Methodist Women and others as well as for everyone who will be in Atlanta during the time of 2019 Super Bowl. Every United Methodist Women member can share in some way.



A special commemorative t-shirt has been designed to be worn during the two-day event. This t-shirt is available for prepayment and ordering by **December 27, 2018**. Please include with your order: name, mailing address, telephone number, t-shirt size and a check payable to **NGC UMW**.

Mail to:  
Tryphenia Speed  
4412 Wesleyan Pointe  
Decatur, GA 30034-6456  
Sizes small to x-large = \$10 and  
2XL = \$12 (taxes and shipping included)  
**Payment must be received by  
December 27, 2018**



*Wishing you and your family the  
Blessings of Christmas and the New Year!  
Tryphenia*

## From the Vice President.....

***Greetings and a big thank you to all who have participated in this past year's Conference events. It has been an amazing year of firsts for me and I am truly blessed to be serving with such a wonderful team!***



Our logo for 2019 is entitled ***A Sisterhood of Grace***. We chose this theme as it is the National United Methodist Women theme for this year's Program Book. As we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2019, we realize that we are indeed a sisterhood of grace. As a community of women organized for mission, it is important that we be the creative, supportive fellowship espoused on our Purpose. We all work together to better the lives of women, youth and children ready to greet all women into the sisterhood of grace as we seek to live out our faith with love and justice.

The scripture we chose is: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, ***"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor; if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."***

We are planning an exciting 2019 celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday all year long. Please save the date for the ***Social Action / Spiritual Growth Event, May 4 & 5, 2019*** at Rock Eagle in Eatonton, GA. For other dates and events, please see the calendar elsewhere in this newsletter.



***Blessings,***

***Stephanie Dressler***, Vice President

North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women

[stephdressler@bellsouth.net](mailto:stephdressler@bellsouth.net)

770-337-8461

## 2019 Logo "A Sisterhood of Grace"

***"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor; if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."***  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10





## Have You Thought About Your 2019 Budget?

Have you thought about your 2019 budget? Not your personal budget (although that would be good too), but your UMW Unit's Budget? Your unit should have a budget – a spending plan. And your spending plan should reflect the goals and purpose of your unit. For United Methodist Women, that means that your money goes toward mission focusing on women and children who may not have their own voice in the world.

The local unit's budget consists of three main categories:

- ♦ **Pledge to Mission** (60%) – It is recommended that 60% of all funds be sent to the district treasurer as pledge to mission. These dollars are spent supporting programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth – thereby impacting entire communities. As an agency of The United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women abides by the social principles and discipline as determined by General Conference, giving only to projects in accordance with those guidelines.
  - ♦ Did you know that you as United Methodist Women OWN properties like Murphy-Harpst?
- ♦ **Administration and Membership Development** (10%) - Items that enrich the educational experiences and leadership capabilities of unit members and that are necessary for the unit's functioning.
  - ♦ dependent care for meetings
  - ♦ postage and printing
  - ♦ program materials
  - ♦ program expenses
  - ♦ scholarships and expense help for members to attend Mission U, conference and district meetings, ecumenical mission programs, and other items relating to United Methodist Women
- ♦ **Mission Locally** (30%) - This budget category that enables the local unit to be in mission in its own area -- such as your local woman's shelter, food pantry, or other appropriate community service.
  - ♦ Money raised and contributed by United Methodist Women is raised for the purpose of mission. The parsonage and the church kitchen are the responsibility of the church Trustees.

Think of the remittance form as a spending plan, or budget, for the 60% Pledge to Mission. The first section, Mission Giving or The Five Channels, are undesignated funds that will travel around the US and the world supporting the missions and projects of United Methodist Women. If you want to be a 5 Star Unit, look at how you might want to divide your pledge to accomplish that.

Then take a look at the Supplemental Giving section. These are additional special projects that you can support through UMW. Some of these are recommended by UMW National but four of them are recommended by North Georgia UMW because they are located in our geographic boundaries. Two are properties that you own, New Bethlehem Community Center and Murphy-Harpst. The other two are Historically Black Colleges and Universities that have long Methodist roots. All four deserve a little extra attention from us. I strongly encourage your unit to give to our four conference mission projects.

I dare say that our 5 Star and 5 Star Plus units do have a spending plan that intentionally insures that they become a 5 Star Unit.



*L. Susan Stroup*, Treasurer  
North Georgia Conference  
United Methodist Women





**Carolyn Lee Wilson**  
North Georgia Conference  
United Methodist Women  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
Email: CLW770@bellsouth.net



## Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 3-4, 2019**  
Spiritual Growth/  
Social Action Event at  
Rock Eagle

## Greetings from Your Spiritual Growth Coordinator

I hope that all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. We all have so very much to be thankful for. It is very important for each one of us to stop and take the time to thank God for all our many blessings. Today I want to thank God for each one of you and for the many ways that you serve Him every day. Thank you for serving God through your work and dedication to the mission and ministries of United Methodist Women. It is wonderful to hear of all the many ways that you carry out our purpose and our mission! Keep up the great work that you do!

I would like for us to focus on this passage of scripture from Psalm 121.

<sup>1</sup> *I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?*

<sup>2</sup> *My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

<sup>3</sup> *He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not  
slumber;*

<sup>4</sup> *indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD watches over you—  
the LORD is your shade at your  
right hand;*

<sup>6</sup> *the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.*

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD will keep you from all  
harm—*

*he will watch over your life;*

<sup>8</sup> *the LORD will watch over your com-  
ing and going*

*both now and forevermore.*

Psalms 121:1-8

I love this passage from Psalms because it reminds us that God is with us, and He helps us in all that we do everyday. The Lord is our keeper, and He will keep us from all evil. God will keep our lives in everything that we do. The Lord will watch over us and will keep our going out and our coming in. What wonderful words of comfort from our Lord!

Please hold these words close to your heart every day. You are all so very special to God as you serve Him daily. What a mighty God we serve!

I look forward to seeing you soon. Please be sure to mark your calendars for our ***Spiritual Growth/Social Action Event at Rock Eagle on May 3-4, 2019.*** We look forward to a special time together as we worship, study, and fellowship together as United Methodist Women.

We are looking forward to a wonderful time together. We hope that you will be there!



# Growing In Sisterhood

By Janice M. Walker

As we go into 2019, let's celebrate 150 years in mission of Sisterhood of Grace together - giving to women, youth and children in love around the world. Let's go boldly being in mission serving and advocating. Plan your 2019 work and work your plan. According to United Methodist Women guidelines for Missions, here are some of the ideas to help organize your upcoming year for planning.



Janice Walker

Education & Interpretation Coordinator  
North Georgia Conference UMW

## PLANNING FOR MISSION

Plan for mission events and other programs in advance.

- ⇒ Consider whom you might ask to join you in this work, such as other United Methodist Women and other faith-based groups or community organizations.
- ⇒ Reach out and invite them to join your group in the project or program.
- ⇒ Publicize your event using the church newsletter, website, social media, etc.

## VALUING OUR MISSION

Take time to honor what you accomplish together.

- ⇒ Plan at least one program each year in which you look back and honor or celebrate what you have accomplished.
- ⇒ Honor the organization's leaders and members contributions. Consider honoring them with Special Mission Recognition pin.
- ⇒ Remember to evaluate what you do well and what you can improve upon.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

United Methodist Women is a supportive community that builds, expands and strengthens relationships by inviting others to participate in your work and mission.

- ⇒ Explore local or district groups in churches nearby.
- ⇒ Send invitations to program and events held or sponsored by your group.
- ⇒ Attend programs or events held in your area or sponsored by groups in nearby churches or congregations.
- ⇒ Respond to invitations sent to your organizations as well.

## BEING IN MISSION: GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Growing spiritually helps us to better understand how we can be a part of God's mission in the world.

- ⇒ Organize the spiritual growth study and develop "what it means for us" list as a result.
- ⇒ Use resources in United Methodist Women's Bible to help the group see more deeply into the biblical text.

## BEING IN MISSION: SERVING AND ADVOCATING

Act on your belief by participating in ministries of service and advocacy.

- ⇒ Sign up to receive Action Alerts to stay informed.
- ⇒ Partner with the National Missions Institutions or community organizations or community organizations where you can volunteer.
- ⇒ Engage in district and conference opportunities.

## BEING IN MISSION: EDUCATING FOR CHANGE

Learn about mission and how you can be part of it in new ways.

- ⇒ Take advantage of opportunities through United Methodist Women such as Mission u, the Seminar Program, Reading Program, response magazine and also first-time attendees.

As we continue Christ's mission in ministry, let's share our stories and use the activities in the program book to move you to action in mission with women, children and youth.





Jessica Godfrey  
North Georgia Conference  
United Methodist Women  
Social Action Coordinator



*"...working together, we  
can make a difference.  
Working together, we  
can change the world."*

# Together We Can Change the World

## *Greetings sisters,*

During this time of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for you and for your commitment to bring relief and restoration to our sisters, brothers, children and youth in the United States and around the world.

I give thanks for your response to the **Living Wage for All Campaign**. More than 5,000 postcards were gathered at a variety of events over the past several months encouraging Wendy's to come on board with other major corporations and improve the wages and working conditions of farm workers. Quoting a press release from the United Methodist Women's website, "We've already helped farm workers in the field have a voice and be able to work with dignity,".... "We've been able to achieve just wages to support our families, and we've done this working shoulder to shoulder next to United Methodist Women." You can find the complete article at <http://e.umc.org/jr9X0B0rJ00510dsQkg0P00>

Early on, I pointed you to Micah 6:8 by asking, "What does the Lord require of you?" Micah 6 involves an imaginary conversation between the Lord and Israel. In verses 1-5 the Lord introduces His case against the disobedient people of Israel. Verses 6-7 record Israel's response as a series of questions beginning with, "With what shall I come to the Lord?" I challenge you to truly consider this question. God expected His people to show love to their fellow man and to be loyal in their love toward Him, just as He had been loyal to them. What conversations will you have to build community; what actions will you take to show God's love?

North Georgia is being asked in 2019 to focus on our priority to **Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline** (Criminalization of Communities of Color/Mass Incarceration). Please consider what you, your district or your units will want to accomplish around this priority. Write your goals and make a point to revisit them to see if you are on target and if not, make adjustments. Look for and share ideas on awareness, Bible study, legislation, etc. Working together, we can make a difference. Working together, we can change the world.

Wishing you peace, love, and joy!

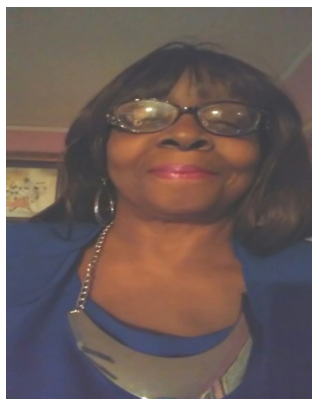
*Jessica Godfrey*

Social Action Coordinator

North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women  
starksj@bellsouth.net



# From Your Resource Coordinator



Mattie P. Strozier  
North Georgia Conference  
United Methodist Women  
Program Resource Secretary

*It has been my great pleasure to serve the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women as your Program Resource Secretary for the past four years. The experience, knowledge and growth I have received from The Reading Program is beyond words. Ladies, I will always appreciate your support, encouragement, and kindness you extended me during my tenure. I will continue to support and uplift the NGCUMW, the Atlanta Decatur Oxford District UMW and our local unit at Dodd-Sterling UMW.*

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you.  
Mattie P. Strozier, *Outgoing Program Resource Secretary*



**Professional Book Distributors** (PBD) is preparing a pre-packed box with sample items of United Methodist Women resources, paper order forms and a return envelope for the order forms that will be addressed and stamped. The box will come to your meeting and you will be able to set up the sample items and take orders from members rather than have to sell items and deal with cash, checks or credit cards.

After the event simply place the orders in the PBD pre-addressed and stamped envelope. **Professional Book Distributors** (PBD) will process the orders and send materials to Members Directly. The box weighs 28 lbs. and contains sample copies of the current studies, program book and prayer calendar, United Methodist Women Bible, handbook, and an assortment of brochures and give away. **Note: Items may vary.** The Response Magazine has a digital or print format. They are published bi-monthly: 1 year \$24; 2 year \$45. **Contact Number: 877.881.2385**

## ***Some of you asked the following questions:***

- ◆ **Question 1:** Who orders the Annual Sampler Box, the District or local Program Resource Secretary?
  - ◇ Anyone can order the Annual Sampler Box. Please order two weeks in advance.
- ◆ **Question 2:** What do you do with the previous year Sampler books? Sell or distribute?
  - ◇ After each event when the Sampler Box has been ordered the books may be distributed to those who want them, free of charge.
- ◆ **Question 3:** If it can be used for other than Annual Meetings, how many times can you order it?
  - ◇ We are hoping that the Sampler Box, which was tested and piloted at annual meetings, may be something that folks will want to use going forward. It may be ordered for any meeting.
- ◆ **Question 4:** Is there a cost for this box?
  - ◇ It is free of charge.

## **United Methodist Women Mission Resources/Professional Book Distributors**

*{Hours of Operation 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.}*

Attn: **United Methodist Women Order Department**

1650 Blue Grass Pkwy.      Alpharetta, GA 30004

Customer Service Department: 800.305.9857 \* Fax: 770.280.0061

Email: [cs@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:cs@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

**Contact Person: Selby Ewing    Email: [SEwing@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:SEwing@unitedmethodistwomen.org)**

*Everyone has the potential to discover a human trafficking situation. While the victims may sometimes be kept behind locked doors, they are often hidden right in front of us at, for example, construction sites, restaurants, elder care centers, nail salons, agricultural fields, and hotels. Traffickers' use of coercion – such as threats of deportation and harm to the victim or their family members – is so powerful that even if you reach out to victims, they may be too fearful to accept your help. Knowing indicators of human trafficking and some follow up questions will help you act on your gut feeling that something is wrong and report it.*



### **Human Trafficking Indicators**

*While not an exhaustive list, these are some key red flags that could alert you to a potential trafficking situation that should be reported:*

- *Living with employer*
- *Poor living conditions*
- *Multiple people in cramped space*
- *Inability to speak to individual alone*
- *Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed*
- *Employer is holding identity documents*
- *Signs of physical abuse*
- *Submissive or fearful*
- *Unpaid or paid very little*

### **Questions to Ask**

*Assuming you have the opportunity to speak with a potential victim privately and without jeopardizing the victim's safety because the trafficker is watching, here are some sample questions to ask to follow up on the red flags you became alert to:*

- *Can you leave your job if you want to?*
- *Can you come and go as you please?*
- *Have you been hurt or threatened if you tried to leave?*
- *Has your family been threatened?*
- *Do you live with your employer?*
- *Where do you sleep and eat?*
- *Are you in debt to your employer?*
- *Do you have your passport/identification? Who has it?*

### **Where to Get Help**

*If you believe you have identified someone still in the trafficking situation, alert law enforcement immediately at the numbers provided below. It may be unsafe to attempt to rescue a trafficking victim. You have no way of knowing how the trafficker may react and retaliate against the victim and you. If, however, you identify a victim who has escaped the trafficking situation, there are a number of organizations to whom the victim could be referred for help with shelter, medical care, legal assistance, and other critical services. In this case, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.*

#### **911 Emergency**

*For urgent situations, notify local law enforcement immediately by calling 911. You may also want to alert the National Human Trafficking Resource Center described below so that they can ensure response by law enforcement officials knowledgeable about human trafficking.*

#### **1-888-3737-888 National Human Trafficking Resource Center**

*Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, a national 24-hour, toll-free, multilingual anti-trafficking hotline. Call 1-888-3737-888 to report a tip; connect with anti-trafficking services in your area; or request training and technical assistance, general information, or specific anti-trafficking resources. The Center is equipped to handle calls from all regions of the United States from a wide range of callers including, but not limited to: potential trafficking victims, community members, law enforcement, medical professionals, legal professionals, service providers, researchers, students, and policymakers.*



North Georgia Conference  
United Methodist Women  
**Running Out  
the Clock  
ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom  
for the prisoners and recovery of sight  
for the blind, to set the oppressed  
free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's  
favor."  
Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HOST  
**RUNNING OUT THE CLOCK ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
Friday & Saturday, January 25 & 26, 2019  
Central United Methodist Church  
501 Mitchell Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30314

REGISTER ONLINE @ [https:// http://ngumw.org](https://http://ngumw.org)

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

CHURCH

DISTRICT: ☐ Athens Elberton | ☐ Atlanta College Park | ☐ Atlanta Decatur Oxford ☐  
Atlanta Emory | ☐ Atlanta Marietta | ☐ Atlanta Roswell | ☐ Augusta  
☐ Gainesville | ☐ Griffin | ☐ LaGrange | ☐ Northwest | ☐ Rome Carrollton

(check one)

**Tailgating Party | Game Day Food & Entertainment starting at 5pm on January 25  
followed by worship. Awareness & Action with various UMW partners and  
speakers starting at 10am on January 26.**

Registration deadline: January 4, 2019

**This is a free event sponsored by NGC United Methodist Women.**



North Georgia Conference  
United Methodist Women

# ***Running Out the Clock***

ON **HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**January 25 – 26, 2019**

### **Central United Methodist Church**

**501 Mitchell Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30314**

*Human Trafficking is everywhere, even in metro Atlanta which is one of the largest trafficking hubs in the nation. Over 27 million people worldwide are affected. We need to run out the clock on human trafficking.*

*The North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women along with a number of concerned organizations will host a 2 day event, January 25-26, 2019 at Central United Methodist Church. It is called "Running Out the Clock on Human Trafficking," recognizing that the Super Bowl will take place the next week, and the Super Bowl always triggers increase trafficking.*

*A tail-gating event will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 p.m. A focus on awareness and action will be held on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

*We all can get educated on the issue, become aware of warning signs and get involved in the fight against Human Trafficking. It's a despicable crime and all of us need to be aware and help bring it to an end.*

**REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE**

This is a **FREE** event for **EVERYONE**, however, registration is **REQUESTED**.

A special commemorative t-shirt has been designed to be worn during the two day event. This t-shirt is available for prepayment and ordering by



**December 27, 2018**

(Order request **MUST** be received by December 27, 2018)

Sizes small to xlarge	\$10.00
2 xlarge	\$12.00
(taxes and shipping included)	

Order request should include:

**NAME**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**T-SHIRT SIZE**

**A CHECK PAYABLE TO NGC UMW**

**MAIL TO:**

**Tryphenia Speed**

**4412 Wesleyan Pointe**

**Decatur, GA 30034-6456**



## T-shirt Request

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

T-SHIRT SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

## North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women Calendar 2019-2020

Event	2019	Location	2020
Program/CON Executive-Overnight	Jan 11-12	Collinswood at Aldergate Buckhead, GA	Jan 11
Finance/ E & I/Historians	Mar 2	TBD	Feb 15
Faith, Fun, Everyone	N/A	N/A	Mar 7
Program/CON Executive	Apr 13	Dunwoody UMC AROS District	April 11
Spiritual Growth Event/Social Action	May 3-4	Rock Eagle Eatonton, GA	N/A
NGC Annual Conference	Jun 11-14	Classic Center Athens GA	Jun
UMW Breakfast	Jun 12	Classic Center	Jun
Limitless Event	Jul	TBD	
CON/ Program Executive	Jul 13	TBD	Jul 11
Mission u	Jul 26-27	Fayetteville First UMC	Jul
Annual Meeting	Oct 5	Dunwoody UMC AROS District	Oct 3
Program Committee	Oct 11	Teleconference	Oct 16
Leadership Development/ Executive Meeting	Nov 2	Sandy Springs UMC AROS District	Nov 7
<b>District President's Annual Reports</b>	Aug. 1		Aug 1
<b>2020 District Officers &amp; Dates</b>	Nov. 1		Nov 1

### Ubuntu Day of Service

Date and Time: To be determined by each District

**SAVE THE DATE**

**COMING UP**

### *Mission Studies 2019*

- ⇒ **Spiritual Growth:** *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*
- ⇒ **Children's Study:** *Marked: A Mission Journey with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*
- ⇒ **Youth Study:** *Who Do You Say That I Am? Meeting Jesus through the Eyes of Mark*

### **Special Publication:**

Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission

Issue Study: What About Our Money

**The North Georgia Conference United  
Methodist Women Executive Team wish  
each of you a  
Happy Holiday Season.**



***Mission Study Leaders for United Methodist Women  
2018 Studies***

**“Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living”**

**Cindy Campbell** (AMAR)  
(404) 426-3568  
Campbell.cindy@gmail.com

**Lesma Gunn** (ADOX)  
(404) 748-0104  
lezmagee@gmail.com

**Rev. Kathy Morris** (ATHN)  
Kathy.morris@ngumc.net

**Dr. Michael Stinson** (Conference Office)  
revdrmstinson@comcast.net

**Rev. Sang Jae Lee**  
aeinez01@gmail.net

**Iris Green** (ADOX)  
(404) 704-6584  
granmagreen2@gmail.com

**Mary Anne Brannon** (GRFN)  
bbrannon1940@att.net

**Rev. Eric Powell** (ADOX)  
eric.powell@ngumc.net

**Rev. Juan Quintanilla** (AMRY)  
juan.quintanilla@ngumc.net

**“What About Our Money”**

**L. Susan Stroup** (ROCA)  
(770) 546-0799  
lsusanstroup@gmail.com

**Nancy Ricciardi** (LAGR)  
(770) 715-3759  
ngr1528@gmail.com

**Rev. Varlyna Wright** (ADOX)  
revvdwright1@verizon.net



# Her Story.....

*I want to share some things with you all. God is at work all around us, even when it seems there is no way or the way seems dim. This may be rather lengthy, but if you will take the time to read it, I believe God wants me to share this with you. I am going to be bluntly truthful.*



**Jennifer Cheely**  
President  
Augusta District UMW

The morning of the annual meeting at Mesena UMC, I ran around, as usual, feeling inadequate and unprepared. I realized that I had not taken the time to sit and listen to God. I stopped what I was doing and sat in the sanctuary with my Upper Room and Bible. Did you read the Upper Room Saturday? Well, I did and as usual God was faithful and provided the encouragement I needed to move forward with the meeting.

You see, I was disappointed. The lack of participation we have in the Augusta District is sad to say the least. I'm not sure what to do to help change this. I know God has placed me here, but for what? I still struggle with that. Ok, back to the encouraging part, the title of the devotion for Saturday from The Upper Room was **"Dream Big"**. How appropriate. The scripture was Genesis 18: 1-15.

This is where the Lord appeared to Abraham near the oak grove. There were three men standing nearby and he saw them and ran to meet them. He asked them to come in and rest in the shade and said that he would fix them some food to refresh them. As the men ate, they ask where is your wife Sarah? Abraham told them she's inside the tent. One of them then said I will return to you about this time next year and your wife Sarah will have a son. Sarah was listening, she laughed silently, and to herself, she said how could such a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master- my husband is so old? Then the Lord said to Abraham why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord??

I felt the Lord saying to me, why did you laugh? I felt He was saying, why would you doubt me? Why would you laugh at what I am doing? Did I not place you here? Is anything too hard for me? **Is anything too hard for the Lord?**

Some of you know my testimony of coming into being the president of the United Methodist Women for the Augusta District. How God used scripture from Exodus 3 and the burning bush, Moses saying, here I am Lord. I felt the call to serve God in this capacity. I said, here I am Lord. The second year of my serving the Augusta District United Methodist Women God used Exodus 3 again this time a little later in the chapter where he is telling Moses I will be with you and this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you. I was very encouraged again to continue serving.

Now as this year's rolling around it seems I needed a little encouraging once again. But God used Abraham and Sarah to encourage me this year. **God is so faithful!** This morning as I read the Upper Room, the title of the devotion is **"Open my eyes"** the scripture is from 1st Samuel 16: 1-13. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to find the replacement for Saul, the one who was to be the new king. Through this scripture I see that God doesn't see things the way our human eyes do. He picked, what through human eyes, we may see as the least to be the most. I know that God has a plan for the United Methodist Women of the Augusta District. I will continue to serve as long as God is willing! But I can't help but think there is another, who will be David.

Submitted by: **Jennifer Cheely** (Augusta District UMW President)





## *Bethel United Methodist Church*

1215 New Hope Road, SW

Atlanta, Georgia 30331

Rev. Dr. A. Elaine Crawford, Senior Pastor

# *2018 Advent Concert Series*

*~ Everyone is invited to attend these free concerts and services ~*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 | 7 PM**

Tri-Cities High School Chorus and Wind Ensemble  
Ms. Lori Ann Christian, Director of Choral Activities  
Dr. Tarik Rowland, Wind Ensemble Director



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 | 7 PM**

Westlake High School Chorus  
Ms. Iris Kelly, Chorus Director  
Mr. Terrance T. Williams, Accompanist

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 | 4 PM**

The Metropolitan Atlanta Community Band  
Dr. Alfred Wyatt, Director  
Mr. Curtis Byrdsong, Assistant Director  
Concert Attire Suggested

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 | 10 AM**

Worship in Song  
Bethel United Methodist Church Mass Choir  
Ms. Crystal White, Director of Music  
Mr. John Hawkins, Accompanist



[bethelumc1@bellsouth.net](mailto:bethelumc1@bellsouth.net) | 404-699-0468 | [www.bethelumcatlanta.org](http://www.bethelumcatlanta.org)



# PURPOSE

OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The organized unit  
of United Methodist  
Women shall be a  
community of  
women whose  
**PURPOSE** is to  
know God and to  
experience freedom  
as whole persons  
through Jesus Christ;  
to develop a creative,  
supportive fellowship;  
and to expand concepts  
of mission through  
participation in the global  
ministries of the church.

NORTH GA CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
1700 Century Circle, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30345

VOL. 28 NO. 4  
The Reflector  
North Georgia Conference  
United Methodist Women  
December, 2018

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