



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Trinity Women

Join us for Service Day!

*It's the most wonderful time of the year
There'll be much mistletoeing
And hearts will be glowing
When loved ones are near
It's the most wonderful time of the year...*

This popular Christmas song is currently playing in my head as I started to think about writing this piece. Christmas is such a joyful and festive time of year, but all that festivity requires work. Shopping, cooking and planning, it goes on and on. What puts the season in perspective for most of us is the act of giving. Taking the time to focus on others. For me, Service Day is the moment where I shift my thoughts from my to-do list to the needs of others. Christmas is all about God's promise of hope and love. What better way to spread this message to others than to spend the morning with friends creating small gifts of Christmas joy to share with the organizations we serve.

This year's Service Day will be held in Trinity Hall on December 11th from 9am until noon.

Drop in when you're able, spend some time with friends, and perhaps pick a project or two to help with. Also in this newsletter, you will find a list of the items we are collecting on the 11th for our Harvest Day recipients, Gracelinside and Housing Families First. Two organizations that are working hard to spread hope where despair is overwhelming. We will cap off the morning with a wonderful lunch thoughtfully prepared by students from UMFS's Culinary School.

Wishing all of you a joyful Christmas,

Stacy Campbell
Trinity UMW President



Circle 1

We will celebrate the Christmas season with a brunch at the home of Stacy Campbell, as well as providing Christmas gifts for a resident of UMFS.

Jean Craig Circle 2 & 9

We held a brief meeting following Harvest Day. Circle members decided that our Sunshine Fund for 2018 would be used to support a local student program at Tuckahoe Middle School, the Trinity youth Sunday suppers, and the Crossover Clinic.

Circle 4

We will have a dinner meeting at Autentico's Kitchen. Our circle purchased Christmas bags for the boys in cottage 1 at UMFS and we will collect toiletries for Crossover Ministry for Service Day.

Circle 5

We will meet in conjunction with Service Day.

Circle 6

We will meet at Cedarfield for lunch at 11 am on Tuesday, December 4. Our hostess is Marian Wainwright.

Circle 10

Anna Muller, Camp Director at Westview on the James, was the guest speaker at our November meeting. We each shared a story about our own camping experiences. Anna then spoke about camps at Westview and how they have changed through the years. In December, we will meet at Bana Caskey's for our Christmas party.

Service Day Donations

This year on Service Day we will be collecting donations for our Harvest Day recipients, GraceInside and Housing Families First. Please see the wish lists below for each organization.

GraceInside

Hygiene Items (place in a gallon zip lock bag)

- One individually wrapped toothbrush (must be in original container)
- One tube of toothpaste, 6 oz. (must be in original container)
- One deodorant stick, 2.6 oz. (no spray or roll-on)
- One bottle of shampoo, 15 oz.
- One bottle of lotion, 15 oz.

Greeting Cards and Stationery Items

- Christmas and Hanukkah cards and greeting cards for all occasions. Cards are sorted by volunteers after they're received. Please try to avoid purchasing cards that contain aluminum foil on the card or envelope flap.
- Writing paper of any size and envelopes either 6 ½" or 9 ½" long
- Forever postage stamps (used to send donation acknowledgment letters; please place them in a zip lock bag)
- Wooden pencils (unsharpened)

Richmond District UMW Advent Service

**Saturday, December 1
10:00 am**

Emmaus UMC
(7740 Cherokee Road)

If you are interested in attending,
call Jo Lewis at 784-4370.

Housing Families First

Current Top Needs:

- Cleaning supplies such as mops, all-purpose cleaning spray, buckets, etc.
- 7-day and/or 1-trip bus passes

Hilliard House Shelter Program:

- Laundry Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Silverware (forks)
- Cups
- Paper Towels
- Hand Soap
- Kitchen Trash Bags
- Pillows
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Blankets
- Dishes

Building Neighbors Rapid Re-Housing Program:

Basic Move-in package

- Three sets of twin sized sheets (new or gently used)
- Three blankets/comforters (new or gently used)
- Three pillows (new)
- Four towels (new or gently used)

Deluxe Move-in package (includes all of the above)

- Shower curtain and shower curtain hooks
- Hand soap
- Toilet paper
- Broom and dustpan
- Mop
- All-purpose spray cleaner
- Laundry basket or bag
- Laundry soap
- Bar of soap
- Toothpaste
- Three tooth brushes
- Basic, corded phone
- Basic plug-in alarm clock

Harvest Day Recap

It may have been cloudy and dreary outside, but inside the walls of Trinity on November 13th, we were treated to a day of warmth and friendship at our 2018 Harvest Day. With the beautifully decorated altar as a backdrop, The Reverend Erin Reibel delivered a memorable message teaching us how to pray and connect with God during the busy times of our lives. Our own Shari Adams on the flute, accompanied by Charles Staples on the piano, delighted us with a beautiful offertory. Following the service, walking past the dazzling display case, we were treated to a lovely luncheon served to us by a group of Trinity's most distinguished gentlemen. Following lunch, Special Mission Recognition awards were given to Melissa Holmes, Gerryann Priest and Colleen Berninger. Our Trinity UMW Man of the Year award was presented to Ronnie Johnson.

A big thank you to our Co Chairs, Linda Latimer and Margie Stahl for all their hard work.

Another big thank you to all those who offered their help and support when called upon. It was truly a very special day.



- Stacy Campbell, Trinity UMW President

Hermitage News

The October Bake Sale and Bazaar were a huge success, making a profit of \$6,647. Great appreciation is expressed to Trinity members who were so supportive in baking and making donations for the sale. The funds will be to purchase special technology cookware for the four "neighborhoods" of special care within Hermitage-Richmond. This will enable those in the areas to have a more homelike experience as a family.

On Service Day, 25 gift stockings made by the Trinity Stitchers will be filled and delivered to Trinity members and others residing at Hermitage-Richmond.

The next Hidden Treasures Sale will be on December 7, from 10:30 am-2:30 pm.

- Nancy Miller

Treasurer's Tidbit

I hope you were able to attend the wonderful Harvest Day service and brunch that was enjoyed by



many on November 13. However, if you were unable to attend it, it is NOT too late to make a donation to the Harvest Day offering. This year, the offering will be split between Housing Families First and Gracelnside, with a portion of the money collected staying within the walls of Trinity UMC to help fund one of its current building or other special project needs. Please forward your donations to Shari via her church office mail box or by mailing a check to her home by Sunday, December 9. All checks should be made payable to Trinity UMW. A listing of material goods that each organization is collecting for is included in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to drop off a donation prior to Service Day should leave their items in the Mastin Room. It is also NOT too late to submit a pledge if you have not already done so in 2018. Thank you!

- Shari Adams, UMW Treasurer

Brass Plate Polishers



Lynn Berry, a member of the altar guild, is looking for UMW members to take turns polishing the brass plates that are used for the offering

collection. Circle 10 members in groups of two alternate polishing the plates the first week of each month. Lynn is looking for people to polish the 3rd week of the month. Polish is provided (it is good to bring your own gloves and towels). It would only be once a year if enough people offer to help. Please contact Lynn at lynnjackberry@gmail.com.

“To God Be the Glory:” Fanny Crosby, The Queen of Gospel Song Writers

As I was planning this article, I wanted to focus on Christmas. I started to look for records of special Christmas services or events planned by the Women’s Home Missionary Society or the Women’s Foreign Missionary Society. What I found was not all that surprising. Methodist women in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century did many of the same things we do today. They took up collections for charity. They assisted with the planning of special worship services, helped coordinate events to feed the poor, and took an opportunity to commemorate the successes of various missionary programs. Most importantly, they spent the season sharing stories of God’s love and celebrating Jesus’s birth.

These are all lovely Christmas traditions, but I wanted to find something more specific to share for my article. Since I could not find a major event to write on, I turned to my favorite things about the Christmas season. My first thought was the music!

This is the season of Lessons and Carols, Christmas pageants, and endless holiday songs on the radio. It sets the mood for the season. The music is festive and reverent, jolly and spiritual. With music in mind, I went back to the internet and found Fanny Crosby.



Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) is a poet, lyricist, and mission worker. She is one of the most prolific hymnists in history, having written more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs. It is impossible to know how many hymns she wrote, because she published using over 100 pseudonyms! What is also remarkable about Crosby is that she was blind. At eight years old, she wrote, “...I might not have sung hymns to the Praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me.” Through the course of her life, she certainly used her gifts to praise the Lord.

Though Crosby was not born Methodist, she eventually joined a Methodist Episcopal Church. She became very involved with missions work. According to scholars, she wanted to be remembered for her service not for her musical skills. I have not yet found evidence that she was involved with the Women’s Home Missionary Society, but she would have agreed with the goals of the organization. Crosby gave her time and gifts to organizations that provided local outreach, becoming involved with rescue missions in New York City. She was dedicated to community and used her music to uplift those in need.

Crosby was a household name in the late-nineteenth century. Today “To God Be the Glory” and “Blessed Assurance” are probably two of her best known hymns. Below is just a selection from each:

“To God Be the Glory”

To God be the glory, great things He hath done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

...

“Blessed Assurance”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

...

Her hymns are beautiful, and they speak to her dedication to the Church and her faith. These hymns were Crosby’s way of worshipping our Lord. Moreover, she guides us, the congregation, in finding the words to speak that reflect what we hold in our hearts.

Crosby continues to be celebrated as a brilliant composer and hymnist. She was posthumously inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1975 and is referred to as the “Queen of Gospel Song Writers.”

This Christmas think of Fanny Crosby and celebrate in the sounds of the Lord. Let the music fill you with the Christmas spirit. Have a blessed holiday season! We’ll pick up with our history of the United Methodist Women in January.

- Emily Campbell

For further reading on Fanny Crosby, see:

Blumhofer, Edith L. *Her Heart Can See: The Hymns and Life of Fanny Crosby*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans, 2005.
Carleton, Will. *Fanny Crosby’s Life Story*. New York: Every Where Publishing Co., 1903.
Crosby, Fanny. *Fanny Crosby’s Life-Story*. New York: Every Where Publishing Co., 1905.