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.
Greetings, in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that as you read this first edition for the Flame for year 2014, you are enjoying the very best of health with the snow and everything else. I will be praying for you as I hope you will be praying for me and all United Methodist Women.

We are called to be in mission for Christ. As we live the purpose of the United Methodist Women, be aware of our calling to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission. Let us support each of our sister units that are asking for assistance. We must also reach out to those who were in office before us and who are lifelong United Methodist Women.

Our local officers’ training was held at Grace St. Albans United Methodist Church were Rev. Harold Andrews is Pastor. There were 137 members in attendance. We thank Rev. Harold Andrews, the Trustees and the local units for having us. Thanks also to Sis. Beatrice and her team for providing breakfast.

Our next major event will be Time Apart which will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014, from 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM, at Ghana Wesley UMC in Brooklyn, New York. As always I know that Sis. Adriann Johnson will have a fun-filled and spiritual time planned for all.

Let’s keep praying for each other during this Lenten season.

Blessings, Peace and Love to all.

Patricia Newton, President
Long Island West District United Methodist Women
A Message from the Vice President

As I came across the theme for Women’s History Month 2014: **Character, Courage and Commitment**, I realized how much it speaks about the United Methodist Women organization.

As the largest faith based Christian Women’s mission organization, we have in our history women that embodied these attributes. Women that believed in the evolving mission initiatives of the organization.

What started with 8 women in 1869 as the *Methodist Women’s Foreign Missionary Society* has blossomed into a multi-million dollar organization with a membership of over 800,000. These women heard about the dismal conditions that women and children in India were subjected to and made plans to send two missionaries to a country where they knew little about the culture or customs. They represented the courage, desire and determination it took for a few to make a difference in the lives of many.

This is the strength that keeps our organization going, our commitment to go beyond ourselves to make life better for women, youth and children that are experiencing illiteracy, poverty, violence, abuse and injustice.

As United Methodist Women we have a Purpose and a Vision that is Christ centered and service oriented. We know that to be successful in anything we do we must first be grounded in the word of God. With this spiritual base, we are more effective as we use our time, talent, voices, resources and money to feed, educate, train and advocate for women, youth and children worldwide.

Thank God for all those who have and who continue to work for justice and equality for all people.

Respectfully yours,
Ingrid Peters
LIWD Vice President
A Message from the Secretary

What a wonderful experience we had at our District Leadership Development Day (Training) at Grace St. Albans United Methodist Church on February 22nd. The worship experience (morning and afternoon) were both awesome and every class received excellent evaluations.

In an attempt to make registration quick and easy for everyone, we provided two separate registration areas. There was a table with sheets to sign in and pick up name tags just for District, Conference, Jurisdiction and Executive Advisory Committee members and a separate table for everyone else. This was done to provide the officers the opportunity to quickly sign in and receive their assignments for the day as well as lessening the wait for everyone else to sign in.

There were approximately 137 women from 21 churches registered (including those from Long Island East) but I do believe the count is a little higher due to some people who may not have signed in.

The United Methodist Women, the members of the Board of Trustees, the custodian and others of Grace were welcoming and extremely helpful. We offer them heartfelt thanks for their generous hospitality.

Please keep your calendars noted as we look forward to our upcoming District ‘Time Apart’ on May 17th at Ghana United Methodist Church in Brooklyn.

See you there.

Blessings,

Marie A. Davis
A popular radio program often introduces news of the day by “Did you know?” So my question for you would be did you know Wednesday, March 5 marked the beginning of Lent for this year and it is often during this time that we reflect on what this season in the Christian calendar really means? Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) when we focus our attention on praying and fasting in preparation for the Passion of Christ and ultimately his Resurrection.

Our scripture reference is the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness praying and fasting while being tempted by Satan (Luke 4:1-13). Our practice often includes giving up certain foods and behaviors or for some it may be practicing certain spiritual disciplines to enrich our daily lives. But I bet in the midst of this preparation, we did not consider that the day before Ash Wednesday is known as “Shrove Tuesday” - the day all households were to use up the last of the animal products - milk, eggs and fat in preparation for the strict fasting of Lent. These ingredients were made into pancakes, a meal which came to symbolize preparation for the discipline of Lent, from the English tradition. “Shrove” comes from the verb “to shrive” (to confess and receive absolution) prior to the start of the Lenten season. It also refers to the diet being deprived or “shriven” of meat or possibly that after the customary confession in preparation for Lent, one is "shriven" of sin. Whether it is Carnival (“farewell to meat”), Mardi Gras, “Butter Tuesday”, or “Shrove Tuesday”, it is a time of joyful feasting and fun. This practice of celebrating carnival is still be enjoyed today especially in the Caribbean, South American and some European countries.

Our Lenten spiritual preparation should not be confined only to "giving up" things; we should "take on" things, also - extra prayers, for example, especially family prayers. If your family has not already established some form of family prayer, Lent is a good time to begin. Be prepared to do something special during this season. Praying together as a family, in our busy times, is difficult, so do set aside some time this Lent to do it. Whether it is waking up a little earlier beginning our day with “Thank you Lord” or closing our day with family around the table every night at dinner or saying “Thank you Lord” before you retire at night, the idea is to be intentional in our journey this year.

Blessings,
Adriann F. Johnson
LIWD UMW Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth
Making A Commitment to Mission

I would like take this opportunity to introduce myself, for those of who may not know me. I have served the Conference United Methodist Women for the last twelve years. Currently I am serving as the Asst. Dean for Mission u (formerly Cooperative School of Christian School of Mission). Beginning 2015, I will become the Dean and I would like your support by attending Mission u, if not you, please 'make it happen' for someone else to attend.

While serving the District on the Committee on Nomination (CON), I would like to see our LIW district grow and soar under this current district leadership. This will only happen with 'you' making a commitment to mission. You ask, how? When a member of the CON asks 'you' to serve or make a recommendation, take a minute to pause and pray, ask questions and you will be guided by the Holy Spirit to lead you into making a right decision, answering, yes, with God's help and training faith without works is naught.

As United Methodist Women, I know we have heard Christ speak to us. Serving in mission is a 'gift' from God. We should count it a privilege, a joy and an honor to share in God's mission while here on earth.

I pray when you are asked to serve or make a recommendation just know we are communicators of the 'gift' showing Faith, Hope, Love in Action.

Christ has commissioned us, just as he commissioned his disciples. Just know he will guide us on our journey together as we serve. On behalf, of the committee on nominations ladies, I would like to thank you all for what you.

Please contact any committee member and ask for a Talent Bank form. Christ has no hands, mind but ours.

In Sisterly love,

Deborah C. Jenkins
Chair, Committee on Nomination
I AM OPEN AND RECEPTIVE TO THE MANIFESTATION OF DIVINE IDEAS.

The Census forms for United Methodist Women membership count were mailed in January, 2014.

To date I have received replies from sixteen units. To those units who have received the forms and have not taken the time to return them, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Whether or not your unit is active or inactive, the Membership count is important. We would like to know if our membership has increased or decreased.

One upcoming event to take note of is: AUGUST 02, 2014, LIWD MEMBERSHIP PICNIC.

Please honor your commitment to UNITED METHODIST WOMEN.

Blessings to All,
Sandra Griffith
Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
615 Crown Street, #D5
Brooklyn, NY 11213
(718) 756-2976

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of LIWD Officers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Newton, President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ingrid Peters, Vice-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie A. Davis, Secretary</td>
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<td>Angela Depass, Treasurer</td>
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<td>Coordinators</td>
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<td>Adriann Fraser-Johnson, Spiritual Growth</td>
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<td>Diana J. Collier, Social Action</td>
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<td>Marcia Archer – Education &amp; Interpretation</td>
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<td>Sandra Griffith - Membership Nurture and Outreach</td>
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<td>Janyce Hunt – Communications Coordinator</td>
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<td>Deborah Jenkins – Nominations Chairperson</td>
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<td>Isabel Ayers - Program Resources</td>
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<td>Benita Lynn Malloy - Teen/College/University Advisor</td>
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<td>Shanae Ais - Teen/College/University Co- Advisor</td>
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<td>Tanya Tavaris - Teen/College/University Co- Advisor</td>
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Greetings from Far Rockaway Mission

United Methodist Women are the greatest!

What a blessed opportunity this is to publicly thank the United Methodist Women of the Long Island West District for being the angels of mercy God has called them to be. By serving all who have a need, United Methodist Women are responsible for helping push back the barriers of poverty which threaten to overtake us. This is no less true of United Methodist Women who make their presence known in Far Rockaway.

The Far Rockaway Mission is a New York Conference initiative located in the Far Rockaway area of Long Island. Hundreds of women, children, youth and men are being given a hand up (not a hand out) by people who show God’s love to those who are struggling just to put a simple meal on their tables. These servants of God are giving willingly, some out of their abundance and some out of their limited resources but whatever the situation is, they are giving.

Please join with me in thanking God and praying for the following groups who have provided well balanced meals in abundance to the people in need in the Far Rockaway, Five Towns, Brooklyn and Manhattan areas of New York City:

January:  
Angela Pratt & the youth group of Westbury UMC  
Rozlyn, Alyssa and Natalie, a self-made ‘family group’ with a call to serve  
Leonie Halcond and the mission group of Springfield Gardens UMC  
Marcia Bent and the UMW of St. John’s Elmont UMC  
Magdalene Tattnall & the UMW of Vanderveer Park UMC

February:  
Coris Melville, Joan Meade, Dorothy Townsend and the UMW of Hanson Place Central UMC  
Jennifer Francis Scott, Eutenser Christie & the UMW of Springfield Gardens UMC  
Beverley Kirby and the UMW of Bushwick Parish UMC  
Geraldine Davis, Sandra Griffith & UMW of Bethany UMC  
Rev. Delores Barrett & the mission group of Community UMC

For each publishing of The Flame, I hope to list the names, groups and churches of those who are currently serving.

Very special thanks go out to Carolyn Roebuck, Joann McClam, Leila Johnson, Springfield Gardens UMW, Delores McPherson of the Springfield Gardens mission group, and Judith McRae of First United Methodist Church of Jamaica, for putting much more into service to the mission than we can thank them for. They have been on call to assist with organization, serving, providing and cooking food, purchasing supplies and physically standing in the gap whenever needed.
Far Rockaway Mission (Continued)

A Sunday service could not be possible without those who are called to bring the word to the people. They are: Willie Dixon (Hanson Place Central), Rev. Sims Akins (Bethsalem Baptist Church), Maudlyn Pryce (St. John’s Baptist Church) and Carmen Duenas (Springfield Gardens UMC).

Then, of course, there are the special people who every Sunday stand with me, shoulder to shoulder, as we pray and serve: Juliet Barriffe, Delroy McPherson, Wilston Bennett and Desiree Childs.

There are many others who have donated money, clothing and non-perishable food to the mission but they are too many to list, however, they have all received a personal ‘thank you’ on behalf of the mission and the clients being served.

Please note that when one names names in articles like this, someone’s name is always inadvertently omitted. If I have omitted your name, please accept my apologies and give me a gentle reminder. Our desire is that all of you know how things are going with the mission and that you keep us in prayer. If you or your church group is not currently serving with us, please pray about your possible involvement in this most worthwhile cause.

Recently, we have had a crisis arise at the mission. Both of our stoves broke down. We were able to get service on them but only one is partially operational. There are now only two top burners and two small ovens working. It is a great hardship on us and we are praying for your help. We are in great need of a real commercial stove. We have priced such and found it to be nearly $10,000. When Grace Valley Stream heard of our plight, they blessed us with a substantial donation toward our new stove. With that God sent donation, we are now on the way to securing the commercial stove we really need. Can your church or group be of assistance? We need all the help we can get.

Please pray with us that God has his way. We are working at a great handicap but by the grace of God, we are still working.

God bless you all.

On the Journey,

Marie A. Davis
Director of Sunday Ministries
Far Rockaway Mission
July 24-26, 2014

Join us at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Ethan Allen Hotel near the campus.

All are Welcome! Women, men, clergy, laity, youth and children.

On-line registration and forms will be available on the web site, http://nyac.com/missionu and from your Conference and District UMW teams.

2014 Mission Studies

Spiritual growth: How Is It with Your Soul?
Korean: Rev. Soon Ahn

Geographic: The Roma of Europe
English: Lija Kim

Issue: The Church and People with Disabilities
English: Rev. Evy McDonald
Korean: Rev. Miyoung Kang
Spanish: Ximena Diaz-Varas

All adults at the school will select one of the above three studies.

Children and Youth Study [3 classes: grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12]:
The Church and People with Disabilities

Can’t Get Away for 3 Days? Try Saturday@Mission u!
Saturday, July 26, 2014, 8:00am – 5:00pm
Adult Mission Study: (English only) How Is It with Your Soul?

NYAC Mission u: Dean: Patricia Knebel; Assistant Dean: Deborah C. Jenkins
Registrar: Janet Keyes, (860) 285-0389, jeksom@comcast.net
Calling all young women ages 13-25 to join a dynamic mission-minded and growing group of young ladies committed to serving GOD!

If anyone is interested in joining, please contact:

**Benita Lynn Malloy** (718) 763-6504
**Shanae Als** (917) 577-7504

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Annual Event**

**Sunday, September 21, 2014**

**Further Info: TBA**
Save the Date!

“Time Apart”

Saturday, May 17, 2014
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Ghana Wesley UMC
91 Richmond St.
Brooklyn, NY 11208
Rev. Samuel Arhin, Pastor

Continental Breakfast Served *Bring Lunch*

Patricia Newton
LIW District President 718-259-7432

Susan Kuntor
Local Unit President