

Report to the Charge Conference from United Methodist Women
Thursday, November 2, 1995

Duke Memorial United Methodist Women currently has 10 active Circles and one inactive Circle with a total membership of 239. Two of the Circles (age of members: oldest and youngest) meet monthly year-round. The others meet monthly except during the summer. Circles have their own projects in addition to those of the unit as a whole. Unit meetings are quarterly, the first Saturday in March and June, the second Saturday in September, and the first Sunday afternoon in December. Saturday meetings are followed by lunch. Programs for the unit meetings this year: (1) ^{March} members of a Duke Wesley Fellowship Work Team that we helped sponsor for an Appalachia Service Project mission shared their experiences, (2) ^{June} Dr. Louise Bynum, Program Director of the Methodist Retirement Community, spoke about the needs and opportunities for service there, (3) ^{Sept.} Cecelia Brooks, a Duke Divinity School intern whom we helped sponsor, reported on her study tour of the Middle East, (4) Rev. Lisa Brown Cole will be speaker for our December meeting, with special music provided by Nancy Stark. We publish a very excellent monthly Newsletter.

We are again this year a Seven-Star Unit. Our Pledge to Mission this year is \$3600, which will be paid by the end of the year. We have been represented at some District events and at the Conference UMW Annual Meeting, at which we contributed a Love Offering of \$100 and burned the Candle for a total of 5 minutes (\$192.75) in honor of 9 members and in memory of ~~12~~ / 2 members who died during the past year. Our senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Mark Wethington, led a study on Family: Drawing the Circle Wide.

Two fund-raising events - Volunteer Services Bureau luncheon in April and UMW Festival Day in September - have netted over \$3500. One other fund-raiser, a luncheon for Meals on Wheels volunteers, is scheduled for November. Allocations from earned money this year include: Middle East study tour, summer Clinical Pastoral Education, work with migrant children, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Duke Wesley Fellowship work teams (3) to Appalachia Service Project. Further allocations to use the year's earnings will be made in December.

Many smaller projects, such as blankets for new babies born to Duke Memorial Members; lap robes, walker pockets, bibs for the Methodist Retirement Community; school and health kits for migrant workers; and collecting stamps and soup labels for mission projects, go on all year. Also, Duke Memorial participated in Food Lion Community Way Days.

Mary W. Whanger
UMW President

