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United Methodist Women of
First United Methodist Church
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UMW NEWS

ANN ARBOR FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 15 Issue 2

February 2012



FISH FRI Intergen- erational Project

**Friday
February 17
6—8:00 p.m.
Social Hall Downtown**

UMW Members are Encouraged to Participate!

6:00—6:30 Eat Pizza

6:30—8:00 Projects

Baking

Art Projects

Love Thy Neighbor Efforts

See article inside for further explanation.

Save the Date:

March 17: Women's Lenten Retreat with Rev. Nancy Lynn
Saturday, 8:45—11:30 a.m. at Green Wood

Connections

The next date for UMW to provide refreshments for Connections is February 26. Kate Neelands is taking the lead on organizing this effort.

Kate will need volunteers to bring donations of such goodies as: cookies, donut holes, brownies, quick breads and fruit. Also needed are people Sunday morning to prepare platters of cookies and fruit, serve and clean-up.

Please contact Kate at 663-0860 or neelands_alfred@att.net.

FISH Fri

Be sure to join us for our February program when we will be joining the FISH Fri group on Friday, February 17, in the social hall at the downtown church. Come at 6 pm if you want pizza with everyone. Activities start at 6:30 pm.

This is an intergenerational program where families of all ages and sizes will be involved with various activities. One of the activities is card making for Uncommon Threads using paper quilts for the front of the cards and pasting in a verse for the inside (Still need one or two people to help lead this activity). There will also be a baking/cooking project which Sandy Hultquist will lead. One more activity has yet to be determined and of course, there will be making the sack lunches for L.O.V.E. for the Saturday lunches.

Chris Nelson heads up the FISH Fri and says it is always a quite enjoyable event! Hope to see you there!

Highlights of January Mission Team Meeting

The treasurer's report included end of year positive reports of receipts of \$6,292 pledge income, \$7,989 earned income, well above budgeted amounts, and scholarship income for Betty Makena of \$2,570.

Thank you notes were received from the daughters of Wilma Johnson and Lois Smith for memorial receptions.

Program planning for the February unit meeting, when we will join with the Fish Fri group, was done with Chris Nelson. The evening will include crafts that can be enjoyed by both children and adults. The March program will be a Lenten Retreat with Pastor Nancy Lynn at Green Wood from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. Mary Danforth is working on plans for the May program which will be presented by a group of Muslim women.

The Yearbooks were mailed to all this year for a large savings in postage.

The Mission Team approved a motion from The Cookie Walk Committee that 5% of the profits from the Cookie Walk be donated to the church because of all the overhead covered for this fund-raiser for many years.

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ASBURY LIBRARY



Here are three of the latest additions to the library. Come to the Asbury Room and check them out.

Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, Main Street

and *Your Street* by Jim Wallis Getting back to "the way things were" is not an option. It is time we take our economic uncertainty and use it to find some moral clarity. *Rediscovering Values* shows that the solution to our problems will be found only as individuals, families, friends, churches, mosques, synagogues and entire communities wrestle with the question of values together. This is a UMW Reading Program Social Action book.

Hidden in the Rubble: A Haitian Pilgrimage to Compassion and Resurrection by Gerard Thomas Straub

Prior to the January 12, 2010, earthquake Gerard Straub had captured the dreadful conditions in Haiti for a film he was making. Immediately afterward he went back with doctors who rushed in to treat victims. This book describes life before and after the earthquake and with reflections from people engaged in helping the Haitians through their darkest days. This is a UMW Reading Program Spiritual Growth book.

It's Easier to Reach Heaven Than the End of the Street: A Jerusalem Memoir by Emma Williams

In August 2000 Emma Williams arrived in Jerusalem with her three small children to join her husband and to work as a doctor. For the next three years, she witnessed an astonishing series of events in which hundreds of thousands of lives, including her own, were turned upside down. This powerful memoir continues to bring to life the realities of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This is a UMW Reading Program Education for Mission book.

Friendly Reminder:

If you have borrowed a book from the Asbury Library please return it within four weeks so another person can read and enjoy it. Thanks!

PURPOSE of UMW

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.

Treasurer's Report

UMW finished the year in great shape financially. If you look at the budget in the yearbook, we had budgeted \$5,000 for pledge income and we actually received \$6,292 in pledges.

For earned income we had budgeted \$6,000 and we actually took in \$7,989. Where do we get earned income? The greater part comes from the Cookie Walk and the rest from the gifts families make to our organization when we put on receptions for memorial services and other special occasions.

We did not budget for the scholarship for Betty Makena, yet for that we took in another \$2,570 from gifts from our members.

I consider this quite amazing for a small group of women who truly believe in the work of the UMW.

Marge Whitacre
Treasurer

House by the Side of the Road

A thank you letter has been received by our unit for the \$300 donation we made to House by the Side of the Road.

They are happy to report that they are open and operating at 824 Phoenix every Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They welcome your donations of used clothing and small household items.

They are also happy to receive referrals as they provide items free to those in need, who are referred by places of worship or social service agencies.



Message from our President The First Step

Dear Friends,

I was in Florida for the month of January and enjoyed my time down there. It was nice to get away and relax. I have to say that one of the things I did miss was being with my friends at church. It was nice to be able to keep in touch via emails but it's not the same as being there. It's good to be back and to be connecting with everyone.

The United Methodist Women put a lot of importance and emphasis on making connections. In fact, making connections is even part of the UMW Purpose. It starts right off with *The United Methodist Women shall be a community of women...*

What does a community mean? Here are two of the several definitions by the Merriam Webster Dictionary that I read on line: 1) an interacting population of various kinds of individuals (as species) in a common location and 2) a group linked by a common policy. Our church family here at AA FUMC has been stressing the importance of being a community. The UMW Purpose goes on to say in the middle part that the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is.... *to develop a creative, supportive fellowship...*

Again, looking up the word fellowship I found 1) companionship and company as well as 2) community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience. There were also some related words for fellowship: togetherness, understanding, friendship. I have a good feeling

about our UMW unit that we are doing well at making connections, at being a community and developing a creative and supportive fellowship.

I enjoy the company of those in my UMW small groups and the companionship that comes with being in the groups. The support provided by these groups is evident in so many ways such being asked how things are going and being there for those who need a little emotional support or a phone call or a visit while recuperating from an illness or operation.

Our UMW here at AAFUMC has about 200 members, half of which are involved with a UMW small group in some way. I encourage those of you who would like to be in a small group to take the initiative to find one that you think is right for you or ask about starting a new small group. Our two newest groups are Uncommon Threads and the Aerie Book Club. You can read about these small groups as well as all of the others in our UMW Yearbook that you received in December.

One possibility for a new small group is one that focuses on visiting and calling those UMW members who are ill, homebound, needing their spirits lifted, etc. Let me know of your ideas. I invite all of you to feel the community of women here in our church and to experience companionship and togetherness through Jesus Christ.

Peace and Love, Dee

WEBSITES

UMW EMAIL-our local unit:

Just sign-up to be on the UMW email list by going to the church's website, <http://www.fumc-a2.org/> and click on programs and then on United Methodist Women. You'll find a place to sign-up. Or you can contact Dee Chapell at 668-7160 or deechapell@aol.com.

UMW DISTRICT WEBSITE

www.gb-gm-umc.org/annarbordistrictumw/

UMW CONFERENCE WEBSITE

www.gb-gm-umc.org/detcumw

UMW GLOBAL WEBSITE:

<http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw/>

UMW ON-LINE WEBSITE:

<http://www.umwonline.org>

UMC WEBSITE - RETHINK CHURCH:

www.10thousanddoors.org



Can you Touch a Prayer?

Can you touch a prayer? Yes, when the prayer is incorporated into the quilts, shawls and lap robes which are lovingly created by the hands of the UMW's Uncommon Threads group. The items are available to the congregation when you feel the need of prayer and warmth and love, at no cost. Anyone can request a quilt, shawl or lap robe for themselves or for another. The quilts are tied "as needed" and the shawls and lap robes are available for you to take either downtown or at Green Wood. Examples of the group's work will be featured during the months of February and March in the downtown show cases.

To receive these "touchable" prayers, contact Pastor Nancy Lynn at 662-4536 or via e-mail at nancy@fumc-a2.org. For further information about the group, contact Sandy Hultquist at 663-8890 or slhultquist@comcast.net or Fran Wicks at 971-6450 or at franw101@att.net. New members are always welcome.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ann Frey
- 3 Elaine Fisher
- 4 Marilee Kelly
- 6 Carol Spaly
- 7 Karen Donahue
- 8 Roberta Asplund
- 8 Jean Eridon
- 9 Phyllis Dillon
- 9 Diana Dyer
- 9 Arlene Garver
- 10 Kim Garver
- 11 Carole Starnes
- 13 Tori Booker
- 15 Letitia Byrd
- 16 Cynthia Lee
- 16 Christine O'Haver
- 18 Dawn Rudnik
- 19 Mary McClusky
- 19 Sherry Root
- 22 Doug Paterson
- 23 Grace Oxley
- 23 Stella Steiner
- 26 Jan Radak
- 27 Pam Gee
- 28 Pat Wilson

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responding when a natural disaster has occurred, but what are we doing on a daily basis to work for the common good. As the Rev. Anita Phillips discussed in the Bible Study based on Acts 2:39-3:2, **we are all related, we can choose to be connected, we impact the future by all that we do today.**

Here are some on-line references to get your mind going about current issues of concern and how you can participate in bridge-building for the common good.

- To find out more about what are the topics at General Conference in April/May, go to www.umc.org and click on the General Conference 2012 link under Useful Links.
- To find out more about the National Seminar, read the blog of one of the participants – <http://wanderingnotlost.com/2011/08/national-seminar-2011-2>.

Social Action

Wendy Everett, Mission Coordinator

" An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As your social action chair, I hope to find ways we can go beyond ourselves to serve the broader concerns of all humanity (or perhaps just some of it). One way you can do this is come to the FiSH FRI (FiSH = Families in Service Here) on Friday, February 17, 6-8 pm in the social hall downtown. Each month this program brings young and old together in mission, serving local missions such as the Bryant Community Center. It's usually a lot of fun and all you have to do is show up!

Many thanks to the former Social Action Chair, Cynthia Lee for her time and dedication. I hope I can live up to the standards she set.

- To find out more about bridge-building from the clergy-woman perspective, go to www.btglifecoaching.com
The Rev. Sharon L. Vandegrift wrote a lovely article about **Savoring** that should help us all focus on our "main task, which is to pay attention and savor the goodness we encounter. The question is not when God will act, but rather, how might we be attuned to the Divine activity already going on in the world?" and how is God calling each one of us to be a part of that. She suggests we pause at least three times daily, close our eyes, and take a few deep breaths. "Inhale the creative energy of the Holy Spirit, and exhale the incapacitating energy of pain and brokenness. And then name at least 2 good things that are happening *at that moment.*" Try it!



Building Bridges for the Common Good

Thoughts from the January *Response* Magazine

Mary Danforth

Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation



Reflecting on the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., here is a man who worked very hard at building bridges between races rather than building walls to keep us separated. Here is a man who provided a modern day model of how to see a current need and take his faith and hope and put it into action.

The January issue of *Response* magazine had a series of articles about how United Methodist Women are chartered to build bridges in a time when more and more walls of separation are being built. Separation does not make peace in the long run and does not work for the common good. United Methodist Women work together for the good of all. We recognize that we are all better served by working on what we have in common rather than focusing on what divides us. Often the root of these divisions has more to do with people's greed and ambition.

At the National Seminar in August 2011, the quadrennial justice ministries leadership development event, the 4 'bridge-building' topics were: Immigration; Climate Change; Domestic Violence; Human Trafficking. They visited the Birmingham, Alabama, 16th Street Baptist Church, which was bombed in 1963 as a protest against the

Civil Rights Movement.

One article described the ongoing consequences of the drought and wars in the Horn of Africa. It described the serious needs in the world's largest refugee camp – located in northeastern Kenya – where many of the refugees are from Somalia.

Perhaps the most inspiring article was about a teacher (Angie Ipong) in the Philippines who wrote a book about her experience (*Garden Behind Bars*) as a protester against Western mining companies who have been granted 'privileged access' to the lands, by the Philippines government. I learned that the United States is the single largest funding source for the Philippines military, providing more than \$149 million in military aid each year. Ms. Ipong believes the action Americans can take is to petition our Congress to stop sending weapons which are used to support the interests of outside corporations. Her story tells how she grew vegetables while she was in prison for 6 years, trained other prisoners to help, and sold the vegetables to inmates and the guards. What an amazing way to 'build bridges', even in the worst of circumstances.

One thing we can each do is to see where we have built walls on a personal level or on a group level in our community. How can we move outside these walls and build bridges instead. We often do a really good job of
(continued on next page)

Circles/Groups for February

Aerie Book Group— will meet in the Asbury Room, 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28. Book to be determined.

Mary Martha—& Phoebe circles will have a joint meeting on Monday, February 27, at 1:00 in the Asbury Room. Carol Lundy will present a program about the UMW Reading Program and the new book club Aerie. Visitors welcome. For more information, call Betsy Kincaid, 253-2161 or Sandy Hultquist, 663-880.

Miriam—To be announced.

Mothers I— meets each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Asbury Room. For more information contact Amy Crumm 981-4019 or Cindy DeHart 973-2457.

Mothers Too (Mothers II)—meets the second Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. For more information contact Sarah Nooden at 663-5667.

Partakers—meets each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the downtown church. Contact: Phyllis Dillon at 663-6351.

Phoebe—and Mary Martha Circles will meet jointly on Monday, Feb 27, at 1 pm in the Asbury Room. Carol Lundy will present a program about the UMW Reading Program and the new book club Aerie. For more info see above.

Sarah's Sisters—will meet February 13, 7 p.m. at Green Wood, to continue their discussion of the book by Joan Chittister, *The Friendship of Women – The Hidden Tradition of the Bible*. Contact Dee Chapell for further information. deechapell@aol.com

Uncommon Threads—will meet Monday, February 6th & February 20, 1:00-3:00, at Green Wood, Visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Sandy Hultquist, shultquist@comcast.net, 663-8890 or Fran Wicks, fwicks101@att.net, 971-6450.

WOW MOMS—meets each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Asbury Room. Contact Carol Hulbert at hulbertcarol@gmail.com for more information.



This newsletter can be viewed in color on line at the church's website.

<http://www.fumc-a2.org/>