

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 3

# the UMW News

V O L U M E 1 6

I S S U E 7

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
120 S. STATE STREET  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104  
(734)662-4536

## 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.



## Coming Soon...

**September 13**

**Annual UMW Potluck  
(Details Inside)**

**October 6**

**UMW hosts Connections**

**October 12**

**UMW Ann Arbor District  
Annual Meeting & Celebration  
Saline, MI**

**November 15**

**Annual Birthday Celebration &  
Salad Potluck**

**December 14**

**Cookie Walk**

**December 16**

**Annual Christmas Tea  
Carols and Program**



*The Prez Sez:*  
*A Message from Unit President Phyllis Hill*



*Dear Friends,*

As Summer comes to an end, we are planning programs for our upcoming year. The Church is coming alive again and the students are moving back to town.

On September 13, we will have our annual Fall potluck with Joanne and Joe Perez speaking on Poverty, one of the 2013 Mission Studies. All are invited, this is not just a Ladies event.

On October 12th, we have the District Annual Meeting and Local Unit Officer training in Saline followed by the November 15th salad potluck and program, Birthday cake, and take our Annual World Thank Offering.

December promises to be busy with the Cookie Walk and the Christmas Tea. We will update you in the coming months on programs as we verify dates and locations.

*Peace and Love,*  
*Phyllis*

*Highlights of the August Mission Team Meeting*

Meeting was held on August 13, 2013.

The September program will be a potluck held at Green Wood. Joanne and Joe Perez will present a program on poverty. Carol Lundy will do devotions and Sarah's Sisters will host.

Several changes were made to the budget: AA District Pledge increased to \$9,200, scholarships to \$500, newsletter printing to \$300, UMYF missions to \$200, Contingency Fund to \$200. Children's Missions were added

at \$100 as well as Memorial Receptions/Supplies at \$100. VBC Luncheon reduced to \$250. Budget will be voted on at the September potluck.

The possibility was raised that this year could be the final Cookie Walk fundraiser as it is very time consuming to plan and execute; there is a lack of bakers as well. Further planning will be held on this issue.

Members nominated. UMW hosts Connections on October 6 and February 23.

Ann Hanton will continue to do handbook. All changes in groups are to be submitted as soon as possible.

UMW birthday celebration and world offering will be November 15th. Program by Ten Thousand Villages.

AA District Annual meeting at Saline FUMC on October 12th.

**Next meeting:**  
**September 10th, 6:30 pm at Green Wood.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**  
**PHYLLIS HILL**

# Faith and Service

Wendy Everett, Social Action Mission Coordinator



With the numerous news stories of unresolved medical issues and high suicide rates for our veterans, I think we can all agree that many who

serve in our military are not being treated justly by our society when they return home.

This month, we will have the opportunity to hear an extraordinary speaker with first-hand experiences in these matters: Logan Mehl-Laituri. He is the coauthor of *Reborn on the Fourth of July* and will give a message in worship on September 22.

Logan Mehl-Laituri spent over six years in the United States Army, including a 14-month deployment to Iraq as a forward observer for the field artillery. In 2006, he was honorably discharged after applying to be recognized as a noncombatant conscientious objector in order to return to combat without a firearm as a Christian pacifist.

*Reborn on the Fourth of*

*July; The Challenge of Faith, Patriotism, & Conscience* is the story of what God did in his life in the midst of combat deployments and the peacemaking call of Jesus. Logan says “I LOVE sparking and maintaining meaningful conversations at the intersection of faith and service.”

Pastor Bob is also leading a conversation about Just War and Christian Pacifism with a preview of Logan’s book on Sunday, September 15, at 10:45-11:45 am in the Wesley Lounge. All are welcome.

Personally I feel somewhat distant from veteran’s issues...my father was in the Marine Reserves and never had to serve in wartime, and my grandfathers were too young to be in WW1 and had already started their families when WW2 came along and were not drafted. We don’t have the kind of stories about the military that get passed around in some families. I hope to gain a better understanding after Logan’s visit!

Good evening to you. I just got back from my clinicals and am just smiling as I am currently in the oncology pediatric ward and it touches my heart so much when I see the little ones fighting for their life. When they smile they make me feel so happy!!! I hope you are all fine and doing good. Myself I am good, and happy that your gesture of kindness gave me this opportunity to serve. Every time I thank God for all of you and pray you live longer to see the fruit of your labor. I know it takes sacrifice to raise my fees every year and that humbles me. You have become the family that I didn’t have. You light my candle now and my life is bright! Thank you! In school I am doing very well. I passed my exams well and currently am doing my clinical rotations in Kenyatta National Hospital—I have already rotated in psychiatry and now am in pediatric then will go to medical, surgical and finally will be in obstetrics and the gynecology ward.



Then I will do my end of year exams in November. As I do my rotation, I have realized being a nurse is more than giving drugs and care, it’s more of a calling to care for the patient wholly, mentally, spiritually and physically! This makes me wake up in the morning smiling to go and touch a heart! I thank all of you for giving me this chance! As you meet and celebrate on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, may you all know that you are my biggest gift that I celebrate every day. I lost one mum but I got all of you filling up that gap. I feel so-o-o loved! I cannot pay back this quality of kindness and love. All I can do is to project the same to someone else.

The other thing is my health. My left kidney retains urine and gets infected/inflamed more often but I thank God because I can live with it and manage with drugs, though at times things get tough and I can’t afford the drugs. Otherwise, I am doing well and I thank God.

-Betty



# Food for the Soul

Mary McClusky

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

This summer I participated in the small women's group that discussed the book, "*A Faithful Heart*" by Sally Dyck, led by our own Nancy Lynn. The gathering, sharing and caring of the 20+ women was a rich feast for our souls. I'd like to share some of the writings and thoughts from this time.

*God said, "I am holy; you be holy." (1 Peter 1:15)*

"It's sometimes difficult to think of each day as holy, when days are filled with checking off the to-do list, isn't it? Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of Romans 12, "Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering." Our everyday, ordinary lives are offerings to God.

If we think of our days as being divinely guided, or full of "providence," this changes our perspective on the to-do list. Folding the laundry can become a blessing to your family, shaking someone's hand could be the physical touch that person needs to feel connected to something

greater, a quiet moment can be the stillness that reminds you of the constant presence of God. Our everyday, ordinary lives are holy offerings to God.

When we think about being "more holy" or practicing the presence of God in our lives, we can easily make the mistake of thinking that we have to add things into our lives. But being open to the presence of God in our lives simply means that we are awake and alive to God in all the people and activities around us. If we are under the pressure to do more and more to be holier and holier, I doubt that we'll be holier! Instead I believe God wants us to see our "everyday, ordinary lives" differently, colored with the beauty of God's presence in the faces of those we love and who are strangers and even enemies; in the intricacies and mysteries of birds, animals, and plants; in the activities of our daily lives" (31, 32).

May you ponder these words and your daily lives as being offerings to God...

## WEBSITES

**UMW EMAIL (Our local unit):** Sign up for UMW email by going to the church's website at [www.fumc-a2.org](http://www.fumc-a2.org). Click on *programs* and then on *United Methodist Women*. Or contact Phyllis Hill at 213-5544 or [phyllishill50@gmail.com](mailto:phyllishill50@gmail.com)

**UMW CONFERENCE WEBSITE:** [www.gb-gm-umc.org/detcumw](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/detcumw)

**UMW GLOBAL WEBSITE:** [www.new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw/](http://www.new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw/)

**UMW ONLINE WEBSITE:** [www.umwonline.org](http://www.umwonline.org)

**UMC WEBSITE - RETHINK CHURCH:** [www.10thousanddoors.org](http://www.10thousanddoors.org)

# One Hundred Five Thanks

by Betsey Kincaid

Last March my brother John and I were in Buffalo to move my mother, Miriam Minsker, from her apartment in a retirement facility into a nursing home. As we were cleaning out her apartment, John said "I've found some money in the kitchen." When he brought it to me, I immediately recognized it as her **World Thank Offering** box where for many, many years she has collected change to donate to the UMW.

I told Mom we had found her box, and suggested I take her final donation to Ann Arbor with me to add to our fall collection. She readily agreed, so last weekend on her **105th birthday** here she is handing the box over to me to bring to our September unit meeting. Then I think I will take the empty box home to place in my kitchen and keep up the tradition!



The scripture for Assembly 2014 is Mark 6:3--44, the feeding of the 5,000. Here are some inspiring words from our United Methodist President and General Secretary:

"As you prepare to attend the 2014 Assembly, be mindful that just as Jesus fed the 5,000, United Methodist Women nourish the physically and spiritually famished in our local communities, nation and world when we unite in mission, rally for change and stand with women, children and youth and continue to organize for mission. United Methodist Women, Make It Happen!"

*Yvette Kim Richards, President of United Methodist Women*  
*Harriet Jane Olson, General Secretary of United Methodist Women*

## ASSEMBLY 2014

**Make it Happen!**  
**Louisville**  
**Assembly 2014**  
**You don't want to miss it**  
**Very powerful!**  
**Dynamic!**  
**Amazing!**

Go to  
[www.assembly2014.org](http://www.assembly2014.org)  
for more info.

**There will be a bus or carpool of UMW people going from Ann Arbor to Louisville.**  
**Lots of good conversation and fun!**

Contact Dee Chapell at  
[deechapell@aol.com](mailto:deechapell@aol.com)  
to chat about it.

# DAUGHTERS ALL CELEBRATION 2013

## "God's Band aids"

We had a great Daughters All Celebration Friday this summer on a perfect July evening! The weather was just right and the desserts were outstanding. We had a full house attending which included 4 daughters who will be going into 5th grade in September. The theme this year was caring for others with "God's Band aids" as our title. Emily Desmet, one of God's Band aids, shared with us her experiences as a nurse in the critical care unit at University Hospital. Emily pointed out that it is a fine balance between the art of nursing and the science of nursing. Music is an important way to care for others and 5<sup>th</sup> grader Sophie Krifpgan is another bandaid for God. Sophie gave a beautiful performance playing her violin as her mom, Naki, accompanied her on the piano. It is such a delight to see Sophie progress with her music skills. We all immensely enjoyed Sherry Root singing a song from the musical Pippin as she dressed up like a granny and entertained us with her lovely voice and charisma. A touching note from Betty Makena, who is studying to be a nurse at Nairobi University, was shared with us by Mary McClusky. Mary continues to be in touch with Betty by email. Betty feels loved by all of us and thinks of us as her family. She is extremely grateful for our support, both emotionally and financially. Forty "bandaid cards," carefully decorated with pictures and uplifting words by the daughters at the celebration will be given to families whose children are at Mott Hospital. If you weren't able to come Friday night, you missed learning how to dance the hula, which made for a lot of fun and laughs. \$1,750 dollars has already been donated towards Betty Makena's college fund for her final year, which begins in January. You can still donate to this fund by making a check out to UMW and mailing it to Marge Whitacre. All donations will be matched by the UMW, which means we are already at \$3,500! We are aiming for \$4,000, which is the cost of one year at the university. Thank you so much to everyone for making this Daughters All Celebration such a fun event and for your generous gifts! We know that Betty is very grateful for all that she receives from us.



*It's Time For*

*Fall*

A decorative graphic featuring a large brown leaf on the left, a smaller orange leaf in the middle, and a small yellow leaf on the right, all arranged along a thin, curved line that swirls to the right.

*Annual Potluck*  
*Friday, September 13, 2013*  
*Green Wood*

*6:15 P.M. potluck*  
*7:15 P.M. program*

*Featured speakers:*  
*Joanne and Joe Perez*

*Topic: Poverty*  
*UMW Mission Study for 2013*

*All are invited. Please bring a dish to pass.*  
*Table service & beverages will be provided.*

Assembly  
2014  
Louisville,  
Ky.



April  
25-27



will you



Will you accept the call? Will you make it happen? Will you come to Assembly 2014?

Come expecting powerful worship, dynamic speakers and amazing music.

Come expecting to celebrate our Wesleyan heritage and to shape our future together.

Come expecting to talk about challenging and complex issues in a real way.

Just don't come expecting all the answers.  
It's also about the questions.



- worship
- speakers
- workshops
- service
- networking
- Bible study
- and much more!



for women  
by women



[www.assembly2014.org](http://www.assembly2014.org)



# Annual District Celebration

Saturday, October 12, 2013 check in starts at 8:30 am

Saline First United Methodist Church

1200 N. Ann Arbor St, Saline, Michigan 48176 phone(734) 429-4730

## Community House of Grand Rapids

Speakers: Anita Christopher and Rose Simmons

The United Methodist Community House is A LOT!

Anita and Rose will bring us insights to the Community House including the

Child Development Center and the Senior Development Center.

\*\*\*\*\*The in-house gathering will go to the UMCH\*\*\*\*\*

Registration \$10 After Oct 5 \$13 Please make checks payable to: Ann Arbor District UMW  
Send registration form with check to: Carol Gorham 13539 S. Rainbow Dr., Gregory, MI 48137

**Deadline:** October 5

For questions please contact Carolyn Combs 810-225-8279 ccmomcombs@aol.com

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Individual's Name or Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

will attend leadership training for \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** will attend Mission Study \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (list other names & position in UMW on back)

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Include any Dietary Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

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Child Care Needed \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## Small Group Meetings

**Aerie Book Group** - Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month in Asbury Room. Join us on September 24th as we discuss our reading selections, share goodies and have a great time. All are welcome!

**Mary Martha** -Mary Martha will meet on Friday, September 27th, 1:00 in the Asbury Room. After dessert Jean Eridon will share her recent experience as a Methodist camp counselor for Filipino and Native American children in Alaska. *Visitors welcome.*

**Mothers Too** - We meet the 2nd Sunday of the month at FUMC at 11:00 am. Join us!

**Sarah's Sisters** - Will gather September 9th, 6:30 pm (note change in time) at Green Wood. We will be planning for 2013/14. Bring any ideas/suggestions. Newcomers welcome. Contact: Dee Chapell at [734-668-7160](tel:734-668-7160) or [deechapell@aol.com](mailto:deechapell@aol.com)

**Sisterhood** - Meets the second and fourth Saturday: of the month from 10 - noon, usually at Green Wood. Visit our website: Meetup.com and search for First United Methodist Church the sisterhood for information and activities. Our fall return meeting will be at Carol Hulbert's on Sept 14th for an oatmeal bar and gathering. On Sept 28 we will recap our summer book "The Power of

the Female Brain." Please join us.

**Uncommon Threads** - Will meet Monday, September 16th at Green Wood from 1:00 - 3:00pm. *Visitors and drop-ins welcome!*

**WOW MOMS- Evening Edition** - WOW Moms had a busy summer and capped it off with a celebration at Sava's and yoga taught by Amy Unsworth. We're looking forward to reconnecting with those who were away and meeting new friends this fall. We will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:30-9:00 pm in the Asbury Room. Our first fall meeting will be September 5th. We will review materials and decide what we'd like to discuss/study. Please bring books, DVDs, or other resources. As always, no preparation or prior attendance is necessary. Please feel free to drop in when you can! Contact Ellen Meader at [meaderhces@yahoo.com](mailto:meaderhces@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

t o

Sept	1	Judith Block
Sept	1	Wendy Everett
Sept	1	Sue Weitzman
Sept	5	Elizabeth Payne
Sept	6	Mary Crichton
Sept	7	Janene Centurione
Sept	7	Sue Salo
Sept	10	Rebecca Bawkon
Sept	12	Linda Brokaw
Sept	12	Kristen Moore
Sept	13	Sheila Nicolas
Sept	14	Gladys Fahlgren Baker
Sept	14	Ruch Schieb
Sept	19	Susan Allen
Sept	19	Imm-Kee Lang
Sept	22	Linda Simmering
Sept	25	Nancy Lynn
Sept	27	Marcia Schlee
Sept	30	Melissa Martin
Sept	30	Jessie Siekmeier