

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 5

the UMW News

V O L U M E 1 8

I S S U E 1 0

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Coming Soon...

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.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

UMW HOLIDAY SALES

Dec 3

Dec 13

Dec 20

in the Social Hall

Come help us fill our
Cookie Jar!





The Prez Sez:

A Message from Unit President Phyllis Hill



Dear Friends,

The Advent season is upon us and I know it is a busy time for everyone. Our unit has decided to continue our *"Fill Our Cookie Jar"* fundraiser and we invite you to help us by either sending a check to our Treasurer Betsy Kincaid or donating baked goods or craft items to our Holiday Sales on December 6, 13, and 20th.

We appreciate all of your contributions so our UMW can continue to support Mission projects both local and national.

I hope for all to have a healthy and happy Holiday Season this year.

Peace and love,
Phyllis



BOOK CLUB ORGANIZATION

Do you wish you had a group to discuss books with? If so, save Jan. 11, 2016 at 1 p.m. to meet and organize book club for UMW members.



I had the pleasure of attending the Liberia Summit in November at the Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. It was so amazing to see people from all over the country with a heart for the people of Liberia. There were around a dozen of Liberians in attendance as well.

I'm so impressed with the ministry that is going on in Liberia. Although operating in some very challenging conditions, the people are so professional, so dedicated, and really inspire me with their hearts filled with the love of God and the people.

As you may know, our church is part of the Detroit Conference, which is a covenant partner with Liberia (our other covenant partner is Haiti).

One point of pride is the Ganta United Methodist Hospital. Ganta was the only hospital to remain open throughout the Ebola crisis. None of the healthcare workers at Ganta were infected with Ebola due to their careful treatment of all their patients.

During the Summit we were reminded of John Wesley's Three Simple Rules:

1. Do No Harm.
2. Do Good.
3. Stay in Love with God.

We were cautioned that in any ministry we do, we should think about the first rule and be sure to listen carefully to our ministry partners so that we can address their needs and not just do what we think should be done, without the input of the recipients.

I also had the opportunity to visit with Helen Roberts Evans, the director of education and ministry for the church in Liberia. Helen is a tireless advocate for education...some of her work involves traveling to extremely rural areas of the country as far as a vehicle will take her, and then even walking another two or three hours in order to reach a village. The UM Church runs 57 schools in the country. Helen shared many unusual strategies that had to be taken when the schools reopened, such as taking the temperature of students as they entered school and fencing the schools so there would be a single point of entry so children could be evaluated for Ebola symptoms.

Teacher training was held in October 2015 that was sponsored by our own Detroit Conference. Helen has the goal of visiting all the teachers to ensure that they are applying what they learned.



On the night we had dinner together, the Ann Arbor District representatives all had dined with Bishop Innis and his lovely wife, who is from the John Dean Town area. She expressed her gratefulness for the project our district has taken on to provide training for birth attendants and dig wells in that rural area.

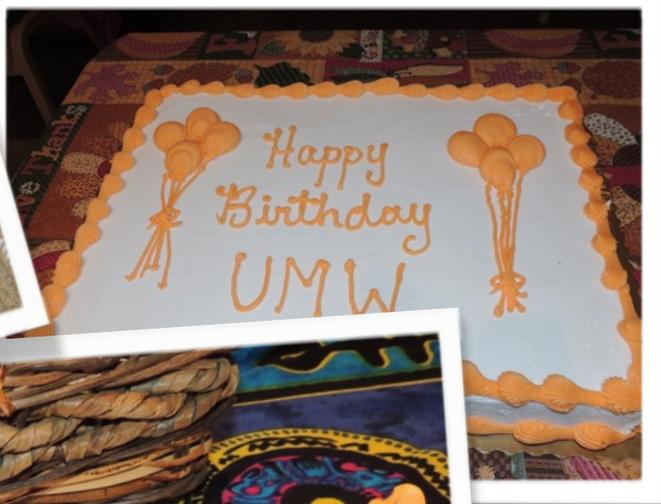
What a treat to spend time with the extended Body of Christ! Next year the Summit will be held in South Carolina so maybe it will be excuse to head south in November!

-Wendy Everett, Social Action Chair

Presenting Rev. Roosevelt Goah with the scrapbook of pictures and notes from our 2015 Vacation Bible Camp, prepared by Lynn Palacios



UMW WORLD THANKS DAY AND BIRTHDAY





Food for the Soul

Mary McClusky, Spiritual Growth Coordinator
Angels Still Appear

Angels Still Appear
By Ann Weems

“Angels still appear to those ready to receive blessings
in spite of the barren impossibility of their lives.

Elizabeth still recognizes Jesus and calls him Lord, receiving him to her heart,
in spite of the distraction of her own blessing.

Blessings still come to those who believe that nothing is impossible in the hand of God.

Mary still gives birth, not just every advent, Mary still gives birth each day to this Child who
advents into hearts, unexpectedly and forever.

Herods still live who would kill this Child, but Mary and Joseph still flee into the desert, and the
night, to protect the One given into their keeping.

Doors still slam in the inns of this world, Herods still plot to kill, deserts and darkness still
threaten our safety, but God still lives.

In spite of war and terror, Mary gives birth to the Prince of Peace.

In spite of hunger, Mary gives birth to the Bread of Life.

In spite of lost sheep, Mary gives birth to the Good Shepherd.

In spite of hearts pregnant with hatred, Mary gives birth to LOVE.

It is not done!

It is not done!

It is not done!

The birthing is not over.

The blessings continue.

Angels wait in the wings!”

Prayer:

This advent and beyond may the blessings of God’s love abound in us and through us in all we
do, in all we think, and in all we say. May we receive angels and be angels to those around us
and more. Amen

Asbury Library News

Did you know that the national UMW Reading Program dates back to 1870? While it has gone through various changes in focus over the years, it has never lost sight of its purpose to promote spiritual growth through reading, life-long learning and education.

Each year books are selected by a committee at the national level. Titles chosen reflect one of the five categories for reading: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. The 2016 Reading Program catalog can be found in our Asbury Library, located in the Asbury Room, of course! Each year we add to our collection several of the titles in the current year's reading program. In the coming months I plan to highlight some of the new books you will be able to find in the Asbury Library.

The library is maintained by our UMW group, but it is open to anyone in the church who would like to borrow books from it. Just follow the simple instructions to check out books "the old fashioned way", by signing your name and the date of check-out on the book card. Leave the card in the check-out basket. When you return the book, just leave it on the return shelf, and we'll see that it gets back in place. We don't send overdue notices, and there are no book fines, but we'd ask that you would be considerate of others who also might enjoy reading the book and return the book in a reasonable period of time.

As this year ends and with winter coming, you might want to consider exploring the titles in the 2016 Reading Program and other books in the library. Good books are good company! Wishing you happy reading now and in the year ahead.....

Submitted by Pat Wilson



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
PLEDGE TO MISSION

As members of United Methodist women, we celebrate and commit to supporting United Methodist women's local, national and global mission outreach.

UMW's mission giving starts small with individual pledges. But, like the mustard seed, it grows and provides for many, letting them know that whatever the situation, God is still with us.

UMW's mission giving allows us to help with local needs, communities elsewhere in our nation and around the world. It allows us to speak where otherwise our voices would not be heard.

PRAYER

Dear God, we thank you for opportunity that we have to reach out in welcome, and touch the lives of your children. Bless these gifts, that they may be multiplied and put to use where they are needed the most. And shower your blessings on all of the lives touched by our mission dollars. May all that we do be to your praise and glory. In Christ's name we pray.

Amen

(Return to: Betsy Kincaid, Unit Treasurer, 235 Katherine Way, Dexter, MI 48130)

2016 PLEDGE TO MISSION

For the year 2016, I pledge \$_____ to support United Methodist Women's local, national and global mission.

To be paid:

___ Monthly ___ Quarterly ___ Yearly

Name



response Review

by Mary Danforth, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

BE A BLESSING

November 2015 – Be a Blessing to Someone!

Having just celebrated Thanksgiving and probably considered our blessings, it is a good time to reflect on how we can be a blessing to someone else. This month's **response** magazine was full of many suggestions!

United Methodist Women is busy preparing for the United Methodist Church General Conference in May of 2016 – to be held in Portland, Oregon. Among other things, UMW will be presenting revised versions of the Charter for Racial Justice and the Responsible Parenthood resolutions. By supporting UMW and the resolutions they propose, we can be a blessing to the women and children and families who continue to be discriminated against in our country and around the world. One of the specific issues being addressed is the fact that “Today access to birth control is being limited for rural women, poor women and women of color in the United States by efforts that are closing clinics, limiting health care coverage and allowing pharmacists to decline to fill prescriptions.”

We can reach out to a national mission institution near us and find out how we can volunteer. We are in the midst of planning such a visit to the United Methodist Community House (UMCH) in Grand Rapids – hopefully this coming spring. We can also help by specifically donating money through our local UMW to UMCH as they pursue much needed renovations.

One of the biggest topics that UMW will continue to focus on in the next quadrennium (2016-2020) is CLIMATE JUSTICE. The United Methodist Church has accepted the scientific consensus on climate for over 25 years, but the fossil fuel industry continues to sow doubt about climate science. We need to remain well-informed and determined to address the issues associated with climate change – one of the biggest issues being ever-increasing rates of migration. There are factors other than climate change impacting migration, but it is predicted that “climate change will

soon become the biggest factor driving population displacements both inside and across national borders.” In addition to global migration and climate justice issues, we are seeing an overall global system change. “Economic globalization has created a market-based global system, tied together by freely flowing capital, dominated by corporations, endorsed by governments and enforced by police and military power.” It is time to challenge the current global system as Jesus challenged the established order in his day. Again, we can do this more effectively by supporting UMW as they work with other organizations on these topics – and hopefully we can finally be a blessing to those most adversely affected by this “inequitable, unjust, and unsustainable” system. We can also continue to think about how we can minimize our personal negative impact on the world and take personal action to stop using foam for anything (including restaurant leftovers), stop drinking bottled water (the plastic is a problem and so is the quality of the water), use public transportation more, buy fair-trade or buy locally... I could keep on going...

A UMW member in Leawood, Kansas says, “A human and fair solution to immigration must be found.” She was inspired by Ellin Jimmerson, the minister at a Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama who produced a documentary film called the *The Second Cooler*, in 2013. She came away with a very different perspective about immigration issues. This might be a film we want to view. The more we know, the more we can help others.

The UMW national mission that was featured was the Wesley Education Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, founded in 1920 (they just celebrated their 95th anniversary). For 95 years they have been providing quality early childhood education, nutrition and support services for families in Cincinnati. The original need was to provide day-care for the children of young black women who had migrated from the agricultural South to northern industrial cities. Today, “98 percent of Wesley Education Center’s service are delivered to families who fall below the poverty level.” *(Continued next page)*

(Continued) Be a Blessing to Someone

You can learn more by checking out www.wesleyed.org or possibly visiting the next time you go through Cincinnati (that would probably include me when we go to visit our granddaughter in Kentucky).

And, of course, there is much more that UMW supports. There are articles about –

- Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) to “ensure that the most do not harm the least” – this includes garment worker’s rights in Bangladesh, impact of the mining industry on indigenous peoples of Peru and Canada, supply chain of Burmese slaves in the Thai seafood industry, and fair wages for workers in the U.S.
- Casa de Amistad and Basic United Methodist Church of Waynesboro, Virginia – working

together to serve the underserved in the area – primarily Latinos.

- The continuing struggle for Roma right in Great Britain – I learned how the British government moved Roma (also called Travelers or Gypsies) out of the area where they were living on land that they owned in order to prepare for the 2012 Olympics.
- A former drug addict, Meghann Perry, and her moving story about her long road to recovery. She ends her article, “I urge you to seek out those who have been forgotten, who have been left behind in our alleys, our homeless shelters, our detoxes, and our prisons, for they are just as worthy of love. Jesus taught us to help all people, but especially the poor, the weak and the outcasts.” And here is probably our biggest challenge. To whom can we each reach out?

The Church & People with Disabilities

Including persons of all abilities in the Body of Christ

People with disabilities constitute our nation’s largest minority group.

It’s also the most inclusive: all ages, genders, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic levels are represented. As many as 90% of persons with disabilities do not attend worship, according to some reports. Yet the only thing people with disabilities have in common is being on the receiving end of societal misunderstanding, prejudice, and discrimination. And this largest minority group is the only one that anyone can join, at any time: at birth, in the split second of an accident, through illness, or during the aging process.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12

Our speaker, Mary McCully, has a Master’s Degree from EMU in disabilities. Mary has almost 40 years of experience working with students and families with various types of disabilities and was the UMW Mission U study leader on the subject. Her twenty plus years as a Teacher Consultant for Plymouth-Canton Schools provided her with experience working with students of all ages and all types of academic needs. She has worked with people with physical impairments, emotional impairments, autism, learning disabilities, and vision and hearing impairments.

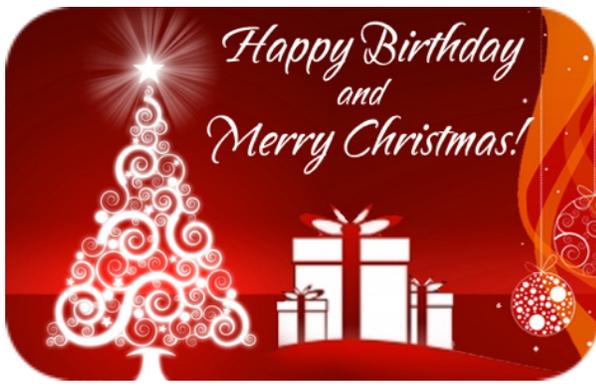
Saturday, May 14

9:00 am–1:00 pm

West Side United Methodist Church

700 S. Seventh St.

Ann Arbor



*small groups meetings
(Join one anytime!)*

fun. Help us cut down on paper usage by bringing your own coffee or tea mugs. PM³ - Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 11th at the home of Sandy Hultquist. Each member is asked to bring a grab bag gift costing under \$5.00. For more information, contact SandyHultquist at 663-8890, or slhultquist@comcast.net.

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Carolyn Wiseman |
| 5 | Joan Cho |
| 5 | Katheryn Grammel |
| 8 | Jennifer Hinesman |
| 9 | Jean Wong |
| 11 | Margaret Cressman |
| 11 | Linda Haywood |
| 13 | Shannon Shaw |
| 15 | Robyn Bishop |
| 19 | Gail Nicklowitz |
| 24 | Martha Gray |
| 29 | Kendra Kerr |
| 31 | Stephanie Casey |



Sisterhood -<http://www.meetup.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Ann-Arbor-The-Sisterhood/>

Mother's Too - Mother's Too will meet 11:00 a.m. Sun., December 13 in the Aldersgate room (next to the chapel) for discussion. In November we did our annual assembly of bags of beans with recipe and have been selling them at Connections, including the UMW Christmas Bazaar Days. Contact Sarah Nooden (snooden@umich.edu, 663-5667)

Sarah's Sisters -Our meeting for December will be on Monday the 7th. . We will gather at 1 pm at Moon Winks Cafe on Plymouth Rd in Dixboro. Come and be part of a group of women who are asking and listening, encouraging and supporting, caring and doing. Join us as we share, pray and listen. Looking forward to seeing everyone. All are welcome.

Aerie Book Group - Contact Pat Wilson at patwilson82@yahoo.com for more info.
Uncommon Threads- We will not meet in December. Our meetings reume on Monday, January 4th, at Green Wood, at 1:00. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month. Visitors and walk-ins are always welcome. If you like to quilt, knit, crochet, or weave, think of joining us for an afternoon of fellowship and