



Fall/Winter 2012

UMW News

For United Methodist Women of Church Street UMC

Upcoming Events

Church Women United
Friday, December 7
Christmas Celebration
Sentertown Baptist Church

UMW Christmas Program
Saturday, December 8

UMW Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2013

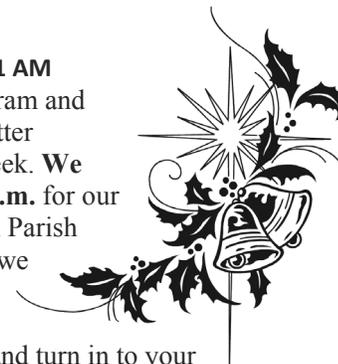
UMW General Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2013

UMW Sunday: January 27, 2013

Christmas Program and Lunch

Save the Date: Saturday, December 8, beginning at 11 AM

This year we are moving our annual Christmas program and lunch to a Saturday in hopes that this change will better accommodate our members who work during the week. **We will gather on December 8, in the Nave at 11:00 a.m.** for our program, followed by an enjoyable lunch together in Parish Hall. **Rev. Jodi Ihfe will deliver our message**, and we are so excited to have this former Duke intern back with us for the special occasion. The cost for lunch is \$8. Make checks payable to Church Street UMC and turn in to your circle treasurers as soon as possible. Circle members may decorate tables in the Parish Hall after 2:00 p.m. on Friday and after 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.



Mission is the heart of United Methodist Women: it is our focus and the very thing that defines who we are and what we are about. In October, we opened **The Sharing Shop**, and we are in mission here in our own backyard. The shop is full of items to be passed along to those in need, and we are enjoying this opportunity to be of service to others. Helping others is our goal, but we, too, will be blessed in immeasurable ways. To help with this latest UMW endeavor, contact Pat Bellingrath, 591-6274 or patbellingrath@gmail.com.

Weekly Devotionals—Spiritual Growth

Many members of the UMW Executive Committee enjoy receiving an online devotional written by a UMW member in the Missouri Conference who is the wife of a retired minister. If you would like to be included in the email distribution list for this Monday morning devotional, please email Dawn von Weisenstein at dvonw@knology.net.

—Dawn von Weisenstein, Membership Nurture and Outreach

Reminder

Circles, please remember to conduct a brief **pledge service** in your circle meetings in January. At that time we will make our pledges to mission for the new year. Our pledge to mission is \$11,625.00 and our total budget for 2013 is \$15,675.00.

“Unacceptable”

To be ranked near the top as one of the worst states for violence against women is unacceptable.

—David Smith, spokesman for Governor Bill Haslam, *The Knoxville News Sentinel*, 7 Nov. 2012

If you missed this article in the newspaper, let me summarize its shocking statistics for you...

- Tennessee has been in the **top 10** every year going back to 2001 with the exception of 2009 (and I don't mean Tennessee football!)
- In 2011, Tennessee was ranked **fifth** in the nation.
- For the past three years Tennessee has been in the **top 5**.
- In 2012, so far 62 deaths chronicled by the Violence Policy Center puts Tennessee **third** in the nation for the rate at which women are killed by men.

Horrifying statistics to be sure. Kristen Rand, legislative director for the Violence Policy Center, said showings in the top 5 and 10 indicate real problems though it's unclear exactly why that's the case.

Governor Bill Haslam cited last year's Violence Policy Center report as part of the impetus for his public safety plan. It includes mandatory jail sentences of at least 30 days for a second conviction of domestic assault and at least 90 days for three or more convictions.

The Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized by the Senate this year. It increases the number of visas available to victims of domestic violence who are undocumented immigrants, it bans discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and

transgender victims of domestic violence, and it gives more authority to Native American tribes to address domestic violence.

What can you do?

1. **Be informed.** Share this information with someone you know—a friend, a neighbor, a group you belong to, your husband. Google “violence against women” and read some of the results.
2. **Take action.** Give to an organization that supports women and girls.
3. **Pray.** Keep violence against women and girls in your prayers daily.

If we do nothing—nothing ever changes! Violence against women is **“Unacceptable.”**

—Nancy Carmon,
Social Action Mission Coordinator



Where Does UMW Money Go?

When UMW members give to the five channels of Mission Giving, our funds help children, youth, and women in the United States and around the world. We are proud that our pledges and gifts help support:

- National and international institutions and programs
- Advocacy for women, children and youth
- Member support and leadership training
- Education and spiritual growth
- The reading program
- Deaconesses and regional missionaries
- UMW Online
- *Response Magazine*
- Grants

Our local mission supports the youth at Wesley House, Montgomery Village Ministries, and Church Street Day Care Center. Church Women United also benefit from our pledges. Additional information about our giving can be found at:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Give
—Nancy Staub, UMW Treasurer

“Free the Girls”

Holston Conference UMW was asked to collect bras back in late summer.

These bras were to be sent overseas to Africa to give women an opportunity to earn money on their own. Bras are a much-valued commodity there and are seen as somewhat of a status symbol. If you are wearing a bra, you are much less likely to be raped or harassed. Selling the bras gives these women the chance to earn money as well as allowing them to gain self-respect and confidence. The Holston Conference collected over 6,000 bras! A HUGE thank you to the many of you who donated bras at Church Street. Again, it is often amazing how such a simple thing as a bra can make such difference in a life.

Henderson Settlement District Mission Trip

Twenty-six women from nine different churches in the Knoxville District traveled to Henderson Settlement on October 13 and saw first-hand the mission work of a very dedicated staff and community. Henderson Settlement has been the conference-designated project for 2012. Judy Grubb, LaNoka Rhodes, Dawn von Weisenstein and Pat Bellingrath represented Church Street. It was a beautiful Saturday, and our day spent at Henderson Settlement was a time of learning, working and fellowship.

At Henderson Settlement, we truly saw “Faith, Hope, Love in Action.” The work the people there are undertaking is both daunting and life-changing. During our visit, we helped deliver eight food boxes to individuals and families. We also clipped coupons, worked in the thrift store and helped in the food pantry. We were blessed by our opportunity to learn the programs of Henderson Settlement and by being with each other as United Methodist Women.

The Holston Conference UMW recently presented a check for \$8,891.40 to Vicki Stephenson (HS staff person) at our Annual Meeting in September. Since then, we have collected \$2,300 more.

Reading Program Report

The following people are appreciated for preparing the UMW book reviews this year: Pat Bellingrath (twice), Marie Brabson, Verna McLain, Elaine Ralston, and Dawn von Weisenstein. **Five book reviews are planned for 2013.** Members attending these sessions may include the reviewed books in their reading list plan.

Thanks to Dawn von Weisenstein for ordering and installing the new rolling book cart. The cart was made possible from the memorial fund of Marjorie Lloyd, a dedicated UMW member.

The following people have completed their 2012 UMW Reading Plans:

Plan I (5 books)

Betty Dotson
Pat Hunter
LaNoka Rhodes (8 books)
Donna Schroeder
Nancy Staub
Dawn von Weisenstein

Plan II (10 books)

Pat Bellingrath

Plan IV (20 books)

Marilyn Ivey
Verna McLain

—Marilyn Ivey,
Secretary of Program Resources

In Memoriam

We remember with gratitude our members who passed from us this year. We are thankful for the lives of these special and dear women, and we know that our lives were enriched and blessed by their presence.

Dorothy Richardson Bedwell
Jane McAfee Dudley
Christine Emily Thomas Jones
Gladys K. Roberts
Edith Claire Newell Woodson



Fair Trade

Social Action Initiative of UMW SERRV, a nonprofit organization, has a mission to end poverty. SERRV grew out of a small group of relief workers from the Church of the Brethren helping refugees after WWII. It has grown over the years developing an extensive fair trade network. SERRV gives opportunity to small producers in developing areas of the world to sell their crafts and products.

They support equal rights for women, safe working conditions, ensure the rights of children, and fair wages. There is support to these small businesses with long-term trading relationships. There is education in determining true cost of the items with consideration of the time to make the product and the cost of the materials and what steps it takes to develop their business.

Consider shopping at the annual SERRV market at Church Street the mornings of **December 2 and 9.** When we buy these beautiful hand-crafted products, we are promoting an improvement in the quality of life of the artisans, as well as, social and economic justice. **All** the money from the sales is returned to SERRV so they can continue to improve the lives of these small entrepreneurs.

—Elaine Ralston, Chair of Lydia Circle

The United Methodist Women of
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