



Spring 2012

UMW News



For United Methodist Women of Church Street UMC

Upcoming Events

UMW Flea Market

Saturday, March 31

Central United Methodist Church
8 AM–2 PM

Church Women United

Friday, April 6

Good Friday Observance

Lake Hills Presbyterian Church
10 AM–coffee; 10:30–program

Spiritual Enrichment Experience

Friday/Saturday, April 20–21

Lake Junaluska, NC

Church Women United

Friday, May 4

May Friendship Luncheon

11 AM, Church Street UMC

May General Meeting

Tuesday, May 8

Guest speaker: Robin Tricoli,
Hiwassee College President
11 AM–Chapel

Recent Offerings

Our offering in January for Africa ELI was \$1,446.00, and we collected \$569.87 during our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial service.

This March offering will enable both national and international mission institutions to help the marginalized, the poor, the physically challenged and others, especially women and children.

The offering will go toward helping those who don't have access to information technology that can improve their quality of life. Projects such as computer literacy, information technology

training, English as a second language classes, career enhancement and job-seeking skills will be supported.



Spring Is in the Air, and It Is a Great Time to be a United Methodist Woman!

Spring is a time of renewal, and for United Methodist Women this theme has particular meaning. In our lives as United Methodist Women, spring holds special promise as we witness the beginnings of a new season. We are reminded of the hope that we offer to so many, and we renew our commitment and our dedication to the path we have chosen as women in mission. Our sense of purpose beats

Excitement and anticipation are in us and around us as we move into this new season, and we are rejuvenated and inspired to go forth, to step boldly and confidently toward our goals. **We are United Methodist Women.**

strong and true in each of us, and as we breathe in the spring air and marvel at God's creation, we are renewed and full of excitement as we look to the tasks ahead. Together, though, we remember and acknowledge that the beauty of the spring we observe is not experienced in the same way by others who are hurting, who are lost, and whose basic human needs are not being met.

As United Methodist Women, we are alive this spring with the knowledge that we can make a difference: we can set examples and be leaders

for others; we can share joy and promise and hope with others.

If you are not a member, please consider joining us this spring. We want you, need you and can offer you the opportunity to be involved in an organization that will bless your life in ways you cannot imagine.

—Pat Bellingrath, UMW President

April General Meeting

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Tuesday, April 10**. Our meeting will be structured in a somewhat different manner for April as we will meet at Shannondale Retirement Center. One of our largest circles meets there, and many times these members are unable to attend the General Meetings at Church Street. **Meeting at Shannondale will be a wonderful opportunity** since we will have time for fellowship with our UMW sisters there, as well as watch a DVD on the history of the United Methodist Women of the Holston Conference. **We will meet at 9:00 AM** for refreshments and the DVD will be shown at 10:00. Please join us at Shannondale and enjoy a special time with some very remarkable women. All are welcome.

UMW Reading Program Offers Special Opportunity

Because of the overwhelming interest in the book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, UMW is sponsoring a book review and discussion of the non-fiction book. The book is listed on the Women's Division 2012 UMW Reading List, has appeared on *The New York Times* bestseller list and has been discussed on National Public Radio.

The discussion group will meet in the church parlor on **Wednesday, April 18**, from 1:30–2:30 PM. The meeting is open to any interested persons. Lunch is available at \$6.50 in the Parish Hall at 12:30. Reservations are required at 524-3048.

—Marilyn Ivey, Secretary of Program Resources



A Little Info about a Big Circle!

Mary and Martha Circle 11 began as the very first evening United Methodist Women's circle at Church Street. We are known as the "Working Women's Group." We meet monthly at 7 PM on the second Wednesday from September to May in the Cox Parlor (Rm 103). The mission of Circle 11 is to provide support and fellowship to each other and to foster a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, study, and support of the goals and missions of the CSUMW. Our meetings include refreshments, a brief business meeting, and a discussion of our selected study book. We are looking forward to nurturing and supporting the College Students Bible Study that meets on Sunday evenings. All women are welcome to come and join our circle.

—Julie Thornburg, Chair of Mary and Martha Circle 11

Special Volunteer Opportunity

Church Street UMW are interested in and committed to organizing a new "calling circle" in the next few months. There are many members, as well as non-members in our church, who have very little contact with anyone on a regular basis. After meeting with Rev. Trent, we feel that we could form a group of individuals who would be willing to be in regular contact with one or more of these designated persons.

Becoming a volunteer would involve much thoughtful consideration, a strong sense of commitment, the ability to be a very good listener, and a patient and loving countenance. **Alleviating loneliness and allowing these special individuals the opportunity to talk to someone will hopefully be outcomes.** Regular contact will offer an opportunity to "check in" with

these persons and make sure that they are okay. Rev. Trent will be our guide and our support as we undertake this ministry, and we ask all who are interested to prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity to truly, truly make a difference. **We feel there will be blessings for all involved.**

Our "calling circle" will be a separate circle from our other UMW circles and will be comprised of circle members and others in our church who have a heart for this ministry. We will meet together in the beginning and discuss what will be involved, as well as some basic aspects of being a volunteer.

Please contact **Norma Conklin**, 690-7802, or **Pat Bellingrath**, 591-6274, if you are interested. We encourage women and men to consider joining us in this new opportunity to help others.

Human Trafficking: Closer than You May Think

Human trafficking is a crime driven by poverty, lack of education and opportunity, ethnic discrimination, the inequality between men and women, and the demand for cheap sex and cheap labor. According to the *Knoxville News Sentinel* on February 27, 2012, "Most victims in Tennessee are teenage girls or young women. They are more often undocumented, Hispanic females."

We as United Methodist Women are known for our work for equal rights and social justice. We believe that we can help to end human trafficking through education, advocacy, and the formation of partnerships. Legislation has been proposed in the 2012 Tennessee General Assembly to further penalize those engaging in labor and sex trafficking crimes. We can communicate our views to our elected representatives to let them know we support efforts to end this form of slavery.

The Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking is a Knoxville nonprofit working to raise awareness about the victims. Their website is www.ccaht.org and gives more information. Other ways we can help are listed on the UMW website: www.slaveryfootprint.org. On this website, you can calculate the number of slaves who have contributed to products we use every day. —Nancy Staub, UMW Treasurer

Mother's Day Tea and Lunch for Wesley House Seniors



UMW will host the 25 senior ladies from Wesley House at a **Mother's Day Tea and Lunch at Church Street on Friday, May 11.** We will meet at 10 AM to set up in room 120 in the Church Life Center and will serve lunch at 11:30. After lunch, we hope to give them a tour of our Nave. Gift baskets will be given to each woman, and we are collecting the following items for the baskets: **lotions, soaps, dishwashing liquid, paper towels, toilet paper, candy (sugar-free is good).** Please leave in the designated tub in the church office. **THANK YOU!**

If you would like to help, please contact Pat Bellingrath at 591-6274 or patbellingrath@gmail.com. *You do not have to be a United Methodist Woman to help!*

We will need lots of hands to prepare food, setup, serve, and clean up. Our guests do not leave their homes very often, and this time at Church Street will be a real treat for them. And for us.

The 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.

