



Summer 2012

UMW News

For United Methodist Women of Church Street UMC

Upcoming Events

Camp in the Community

Mon–Fri, July 23–27

UMW will help with this event.
Contact Pat Bellingrath (591-6274)
for more information.

School of Christian Mission

Thur–Sat, July 26–28

Theme: *That All May Have Life*
Topics: Haiti, Immigration in the
Bible, and Poverty
State Street UMC in Bristol, VA

Social Action Workshop

Saturday, August 11

Program: *Human Trafficking*
Kodak UMC in Kodak, TN

September General Meeting

Tuesday, September 11

11 AM–Chapel

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body, but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth
but yours.

Yours are the eyes
with which he looks
compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which
he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which
he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands,
yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes,
you are his body.

Christ has no body now
but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth
but yours.

Yours are the eyes
with which he looks
compassion on the world.

Christ has no body on earth
but yours.

—Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

UMW June Picnic: Tuesday, June 26, 6:30 PM

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual UMW Potluck Picnic in Parish Hall. This year’s program, *Mark Twain, Man from Missouri* will be presented by Church Streeter Dr. Allison Ensor, retired professor from the University of Tennessee’s English department. Often referred to as the “Greatest American Humorist,” Twain and his writings have enlightened, entertained, and sometimes confounded readers and listeners for many decades.

As always, this UMW-sponsored program is open to all men and women. Potluck dinners are generally a favorite happening at Church Street, so please plan for your dish to be enjoyed by many! See you at 6:30 PM on Tuesday night, June 26! (Please note that this is a new date from the one published in the UMW Yearbook).

Each year at our picnic, we collect school supplies for the children of Wesley House. Please consider bringing any of the following items to the Parish Hall on the day of the picnic:

- Crayons
- Highlighters
- Binder pouches
- Glue sticks
- Hand sanitizer
- Paper towels
- 5-subject dividers
- Plastic pencil boxes
- Colored pencils
- Backpacks without wheels
- Wide-rule paper
- Folders with pockets and prongs
- Markers
- Pencils
- Binders
- Erasers
- Tissues

They will be greatly appreciated. You may bring them to the picnic or leave them in the church office.

—Pat Bellingrath, UMW President

Two Young Women’s Circles Formed

In February, a large group of young women, a mix of stay-at-home-moms and working women, met to explore the possibility of forming a new UMW Circle. A few weeks later, the larger group divided into two based on preferred meeting nights. Kathryn Robertson is leading **The Sarah Circle** that meets on the third Monday evening of each month, and Allison Gaddis leads **The Isabel Armbrister Circle** meeting on the third Thursday evening of each month.

Both groups have already launched into hands-on missions with the Thursday group having collected a “trunk full” of juice boxes for Wesley House, and will also be involved in the local Random Act of Flowers project. The Monday evening group chooses a different project each month. They have already collected diapers for the local Diaper Love Project, and are now collecting plastic grocery bags to be sent to a Memphis women’s correctional facility that uses them to create mats for the homeless. Plans for next month are to prepare a meal for the Ronald McDonald house.

—Dawn von Weisenstein, Membership Nurture and Outreach

For more information

about joining:

The Sarah Circle

(Monday evening group), contact:

Kathryn Robertson

at 865-809-3938 or

kathryn.r.robertson@gmail.com

The Isabel Armbrister Circle

(Thursday evening group), contact

Allison Gaddis

at 865-805-3614 or

livealoughloveweddings@gmail.com



A Special Interview with a Special UMW Member

In Linda Douty's book, *How Did I Get to be 70 When I'm 35 Inside?: Spiritual Surprises of Later Life*, Linda discusses information she received when interviewing more than 50 seniors with a set of insightful questions. I decided to ask those same questions of my Shannondale partner, **Mary Baker**, the wife of a deceased Methodist minister. Her answers are most interesting!

Q: What has surprised you the most about aging?

A: *I really don't realize I'm aging. I just enjoy life each day.*

Q: Is there something about growing older that you've never said out loud?

A: *Not really. I think a lot of my friends don't want to bother outside friends and family, so they don't talk about the fact that they're really lonely.*

Q: What have you discovered about yourself that you didn't know before?

A: *No real discoveries. Guess I've always known myself pretty well.*

Q: Has your image of God changed as you age? Your thoughts about life after death?

A: *No real changes, I guess. I've always seen God in every situation in life, especially in friends I've made in all the churches we served. My concept of life after death hasn't changed, other than the fact that I've decided to be cremated. The method of disposal of the body is not important.*

Q: What dreams have you buried?

A: *The enjoyment and freedom of driving a car and the dream of becoming an opera singer.*

Q: How have you coped with physical limitations without becoming boring or bitter?

A: *It never occurred to me to be either bored or bitter. I broke my hip, but it healed well, and I walked two months later.*

Q: What has been your greatest challenge in aging? Your greatest joy?

A: *My greatest challenge is not being able to drive and go to church and other places. My greatest joy is the wonderful people I'm surrounded by at Shannondale and all the other friends I've known through the years.*

Q: How old do you feel inside? How old are you outside?

A: *I feel like I'm in my 50's (especially when my husband was living). I am really 86.*

—LaNoka Rhodes, Education and Interpretation

Congress Passes VAWA

May 16, 2012—The House of Representatives passed the reauthorization of the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**. Now the bill is on to a conference committee to wrangle out the differences between the House and the Senate versions.

According to the CDC, "One in five American women has been a victim of sexual assault in her lifetime, and one in four has experienced domestic violence."

The VAWA originally passed in 1994 authorizes \$660 million for five years for programs ranging from protecting victims of domestic violence (both men and women) and community violence prevention to legal aid for survivors of violence. By reauthorizing VAWA, more needs can be met.

On one day in September of 2011:

- 36,332 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters
- 22,508 hotline calls were received
- 67,399 victims were serviced
- 10,581 could not be helped because program resources were not available

—Nancy Carmon, Social Action

The New Structure for United Methodist Women

By a vote of 889 to 20, the 2012 General Conference made United Methodist Women an autonomous organization within the United Methodist Church.

The Connectional Table of the United Methodist Church has recommended that UMW stand on its own, within the structure of the United Methodist Church. This proposed restructuring will strengthen ties between UMW members, our national structure, and the ministries we support around the world. Along with the restructuring will come flexibility, which will be extremely helpful to local, district and conference United Methodist Women as they organize for mission.

Main points of the new structure:

- UMW's national policymaking body, the Women's Division, will operate as an autonomous organization of the United Methodist Church, and NOT as a part of the General Board of Global Ministries. This Women's Division will be empowered to raise funds for mission, just as UMW has always done.
- UMW's national policymaking body, now the Women's Division, will be renamed United Methodist Women.
- UMW will be governed by a 25-member board of directors elected by UMW members. This board will be advised on matters related to program by a 70-80 member Program Advisory Group comprised of UMW members and mission partners.

As United Methodist Women move forward and adapt to our ever-changing world, it is our hope that these changes will enable us to continue our role in the most productive, successful and meaningful ways.

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.

