

December 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



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**UMW Christmas Luncheon**

**Come join the fun and fellowship on  
Wednesday, December 3, 2008,  
as we join together with  
all the United Methodist Women Circles in  
our church, over a covered dish luncheon  
in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m.**

**10 a.m. UMW Executive Committee meets  
11 a.m. UMW Circles meet  
11:30 a.m. Luncheon**



UMW Executive Committee

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President, 397-2252
- Janet Rehling  
Vice Pres., 397-5017
- Jan Moreland  
Secretary, 397-9571
- Angie Richards  
Treasurer, 392-7904
- Norma Siekkinen  
Ast. Treas., 397-4386

## *Dorotha Auker Recalls Missionary*

On Veterans Day, Norma Siekkinen and I drove out to Fry Road to chat with Dorotha Smith Auker

Dorotha read every word of the first issue of WOW, and the part about Glora Wysner, after whom our circle is named, brought back special childhood memories for her.

“I sort of idolized her,” Dorotha said. “When I was a little girl, she was serving as a missionary in Algeria. About every three years she would come home to Mount Vernon and preach at Gay Street. I was so impressed.”

(Dr. Wysner served in Algeria from the time Dorotha was 7 until she was 19.)

Dorotha’s paternal grandparents, Frank and Mary Long, members of Gay Street UMC, lived on Elliott Street in Mt. Vernon. Glora Wysner and her sisters grew up in a house nearby, between Sugar and Hamtramck Streets, so the Wysner girls and Long sisters were friends. Bernice Long was Dorotha’s mother. Blanche Long, Dorotha’s aunt, and Glora went to Ohio University together. Blanche returned home and taught in Mt. Vernon. Another Long daughter, Sarah, was Assistant Dean of Women at OU for a time.



Dr. Glora M. Wysner

“idolized” Glora Wysner. Miss Wysner taught in Mt. Vernon, earned an MA in Social Science, did social work in Cleveland, got a Ph.D. in anthropology, did missionary work abroad for 12 years, served as Secretary of the International Missionary Council in New York City, and taught at Garrett Theological Seminary. She wrote two books and several articles. One book, *Caught in the Middle*, can be purchased online, and Kathleen Breneman has a copy.

Being a close friend of the Long family, Glora Wysner visited them between 1927 and 1939 when home on furlough, and she stored things in the Longs’ attic. Dorotha remembers going into her grandparents’ attic and admiring the exotic items from Algeria.

In addition to her memories of Glora Wysner, Dorotha’s own story is quite interesting. She is descended from Longs, Smiths, and Beckholts who go way, way back in Knox County and the Methodist Church in this area. Her great grandfather Gideon Long, a Civil War veteran, is buried in a family cemetery out on Possum Street and Mink Road off Sycamore Road. His son would be also, but he lost his life in the war.

All her other grandparents are buried in the Hopewell, Mound View, and Grove cemeteries. Dorotha was born in 1920 on Baker Road to Arthur and Bernice Long Smith. David Auker, Dorotha’s son, lives in a house just up over the hill on property that her grandparents once owned.



It’s easy to see why Dorotha “idolized” Glora Wysner.

It’s easy to see why Dorotha



### *Dorotha Auker Recalls Glora Wysner continued from page 2*

Following in the footsteps of other family members, she, too, went to Ohio University where she met her husband, John Auker. While raising their three children, John worked for the gas company and Dorotha taught in Mt. Vernon elementary schools for over twenty years, retiring in 1980. She continued to do substitute teaching, and says she especially enjoyed subbing in the Centerburg schools.

Dorotha's eyes sparkle when she talks about her years in the classroom, and it's obvious she loved teaching. She told us that one particular student was "the worst boy I ever had." Although she told Norma and me his name, I won't reveal it because he is well known in Mount Vernon. You'll have to ask Dorotha.

Dorotha and John's three adult children are Ann Auker Inabnitt, Carol Auker Gore (her husband's name is Al Gore, no

joke), and David Auker. Being newer to Gay Street UMC, I was surprised to learn that Pam Smith White and Gail Smith LaBenne are Dorotha's nieces.

She is very proud of her grandchildren and her eight great grandchildren, four boys and four girls. After living in Columbus for a time following John's death in 1997, Dorotha returned to the home on Fry Road that she and her husband had built, and she now shares it with grandson Jeff Gore, his wife Tera, their family, three watch dogs, a cat, and her bird, Pretty Girl.

We in our circle are happy that Dorotha is back home in Knox County and active in the Glora Wysner circle, named after the woman who had such a positive influence on her life.

~Janet Jennings

### *Sarah Circle*

Sarah circle plans to host the December 3 General meeting and pot-luck luncheon with a blue and silver "snowman" theme. Pastor Carol Topping will be the program speaker. Mulberry Street United Methodist Women plan to attend and to introduce us to their new

pastor and his wife Warren and Betsey Outhwaite. We will be initiating our new blue tablecloths. It just also happens to be Ida Mae's 97th birthday.

~Carolyn Allar



Dorotha Auker holding photo of Dr. Glora Wysner. This photo is in the church narthex.



Welcome

## Mary-Martha Circle News

United Methodist Women is a specific adult ministry geared towards adult females. It began in the 1800s as home and foreign missionary societies. According to the Discipline, every church should organize a UMW group. While it is to focus on ministries with women, children, and youth, mission work is still a major priority in UMW.

Mary-Martha Circle met with Lucille Bowden for their November meeting.

Ruth Hubbell conducted the business meeting at which time the treasurer noted we had met our pledge to missions for 2008.

We also made plans to help with preparing “cheer baskets” for our shut-ins in the church.

A “World Thank Offering” program was presented by the program leader and an offering collected.

We will join all other

groups on December 3 for a covered dish luncheon and meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

We went to Ryan’s Steak House for lunch following our meeting.

~Marietta VanFossen

“Think Globally, Act Locally”



## Mission Outreach of the UMW— Interchurch



The Gay Street United Methodist Women mission work touches those within our church, in our community, within our state and globally.

Our mission highlight this month is **Interchurch Social Services. ISS** is a Christian faith-based ministry, uniting community resources to

meet the needs of those in crisis and serves as an emergency needs provider. Some of the services they offer are: pantry assistance, clothing assistance, financial aid, furniture aid, medical assistance, Turn the Tide (Christmas event that includes food and gift distribution) and information/referral available

as needed.

The United Methodist Women of Gay Street church, from their Agape Patria work (meals served after funerals), gave a total of \$1,000 in 2007 to this local mission outreach.

## *Gloria Wysner Circle Meets*

Elsie Spurgeon hosted ten Gloria Wysner circle members in her condo on Woodberry Drive on the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 12. Enjoying the fellowship were Emily Gordon, Marge Winkle, Bonnie Magaw, Alta Smith, Maurine Scott, Louise Duffey, Janet Jennings, Norma Siekkinen, Rosa Lee Hogg, and Kathleen Breneman. (Kathleen is pictured right.)

Elsie's large dining table provided enough space for all eleven of us to sit around, and we lingered there over the homemade apple crisp topped with ice cream, and had second cups of tea and coffee. Sometimes we enjoy this part of circle so much that we are reluctant to "get down to business." But UMW circles are as much about friendship, fellowship, and mutual support as they are getting things done.

Norma Siekkinen, who attends the executive board meetings and is our circle leader, updated us on

board activities. We heard about how the purchase of tablecloths for Fellowship Hall is going, the work of Agape Patria, the unit's end-of-the-year dispersements to Children's Connection, Red Bird Mission, New Directions, Hospice, and Interchurch Social Services, probable unit officers for next year, and the upcoming Christmas luncheon. We talked about the annual Christmas Cheer Baskets project—who among us would bake cookies, make candy, help assemble, and drive to take the gifts to shut-ins. There were ample volunteers for all the jobs.

November is when we make our financial commitment for the next year, so following the business meeting, Emily Gordon presented a pledge service program titled "Giving Makes Mission Possible." She used the 2008 UMW program book as her resource. We read together the purpose of United Methodist Women to rein-

force it in our minds. Then Elsie reminded us of ongoing mission projects in San Francisco, Dallas, Cambodia, and one that mentors youth on issues of social justice. Each member present prayerfully made a written pledge for 2009 and turned it in to the treasurer, Marge Winkle, to conclude Emily's program.

We don't normally meet in December, but in January we will be at the home of Maurine Scott, and Kathleen Breneman will present the program. Our officers are staying pretty much the same in 2009—all are doing a good job and no impeachments are planned!

~Janet Jennings



Kathleen Breneman enjoying the fellowship at the Gloria Wysner Circle meeting.

# Cheer Baskets



Don't forget Wednesday, December 10 all Circles will be coming together to make Cheer Baskets for our shut-ins, and to deliver them.



### IMPORTANT UMW 2009 DATES

**April 19 UMW Sunday "I Have Called You by Name-You are Mine"**

**June 15-18 East Ohio Annual Conference**

**June 18 UMW/COSROW Breakfast-Lakeside**

**July 17 Mt. Union School of Mission One-Day Sampler for Women & Children**

**July 17-19 Mt. Union Schools of Christian Mission Three-day Event**

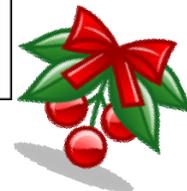
**Sept. 11-13 TENTATIVE Lakeside Schools of Christian Mission Event**

**Oct. 9-10 Annual Celebration and District Officer Training**

**Mark these dates on your new 2009 calendar!!**



1. *The Light Along The Way*: A Living History Through United Methodist Women's Magazines
2. *By My Spirit*: The Story of United Methodist Protestant Women in Mission, 1879-1939
3. *To A Higher Glory*: The Growth and Development of Black Women Organized for Mission in The Methodist Church, 1940-1968
4. *My Calling To Fulfill*: Deaconesses in the United Methodist Tradition
5. *They Went Out Not Knowing*: 100 Women in Mission
6. *Legacy For The Future*: The History of Christian Social Relations, 1940-1968
7. *United Methodist Women: In The Middle Of Tomorrow*
8. *This Is Our Song*: Employed Women in the United Methodist Tradition
9. *With Unveiled Face*: Centennial Reflections on Women and Men in the Community of the Church
10. *Speaking Out In The Public Space*: An Account of the Section of Christian Relations



## Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle met at the church on November 12 with seven present. The meeting was called to order by Catherine Seward reading "The Privilege of Prayer."

The treasurer reported that \$30 for the World Thank Offering was turned in. Our circle has met its pledge. The Sunshine report was given and the money set aside for the Cheer Baskets.

Each one found a dove pin at their plate for their birthday in 2008.

Cheer baskets will be filled and delivered December 10. Cookies will be provided by Ida Mae Smith and Marietta VanFossen. Candy will be provided by Lea Woodward. Lea will help pack and Joan Neighbarger will drive.

George Johnson will be the speaker on January 10, 2009 at both services. His topic will be Israel and Palestine. There will be a church-wide luncheon following the 10:45 service.

Marietta VanFossen was responsible for the Pledge Program. The basic topic was love of self and others. Psalm 100 opened the program. We were reminded of the history of the women's society and the many mis-

sionaries there have been since the mid 1800's. Our pledges support local, district, conference, national and around the world missions. Our giving provides food, shelter, missionaries, deaconesses, and educational opportunities and places for them.

Locally, we support our Jackson Seed Project, Open M Mission in Akron, ISS, the preschool Early Learners scholarship, Red Bird Mission, Project Noah, Habitat, the Mitten/Hat/Sock Tree, Hot Meals, plus many more. It is said the women of a church know the mission needs best.

Catherine thanked Marietta and Joan for their help with refreshments.

The December 3 meeting will be the Annual Christmas covered-dish luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Bring a large dish to share and table service just in case its needed. Carol Topping will have the program, special membership pins will be given, and the Mulberry Street Church women are invited.

Our next meeting will be January 10, 2009 in the downstairs church parlor. Catherine is hostess. Marietta has the program.

*-Catherine Seward*

"The holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Luke 1:35, NEV



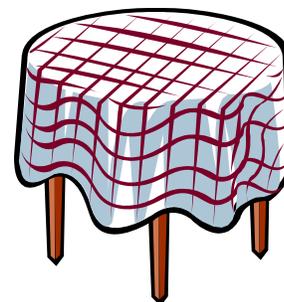
"Our pledges support local, district, conference, national and around the world missions. Our giving provides food, shelter, missionaries, deaconesses, and educational opportunities and places for them."

## UMW Tablecloths

Several months ago, it was recognized that tablecloths were needed for all the special meals we serve in the church. The UMW, being proactive, decided to do something about this after having seen some colorful tablecloths at one of the Coshocton United Methodist churches. They

started the "Tablecloth Project."

A tremendous outpouring of donations ensued. They were given to honor and memorialize loved ones. A total of sixty-seven beautiful tablecloths were generously given. Thank you!



## Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter



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