

December 2012  
Volume 5, Issue 11

*"Think Globally, Act Locally"*



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**Three Rivers District Officers for 2013 Our own UMWomen - Carolyn Allar fifth from left, Marjorie Winkle and Trish Rankin far right**



- UMW Executive Committee**
- Marna Burwell  
393-0320 President
  - Carolyn Allar  
507-9825 Vice-President
  - Janet Jennings  
397-5467 Secretary
  - Marjorie Winkle  
397-9692 Treasurer
  - Angie Richards  
392-7904 Assist. Treasurer
  - Linny McNeill  
397-3686 Publicity
  - Trish Rankin  
392-8158 Program Resources

## *Don't forget your change!*

The Gay Street United Methodist Women is asking everyone to save their spare change to help raise \$5,000 for Community Assistance. January 6, 2013 the change will be collected.



## *Gloria Wysner Circle Tidbits ~ Janet Jennings*

The Gloria Wysner Circle met at the home of Trish Rankin on Wednesday, November 13, 2012. Present in addition to Trish were twelve others: Linny McNeill, Alta Smith, Becky Stewart and grandson Zoran, Lee Dunlop, Marna Burwell, Janet Jennings, Helen Connell, Marge Winkle, Helen Metcalfe, Nancy Vail and Maurine Scott.

Trish program, enhanced by seasonal decorations and a poster, was based on Thanksgiving and the fact that we were turning in our annual Thank Offerings. In between verses of "For the Beauty of the Earth" we told what we are doing to show thanks this year and things for which we are grateful. Much inspirational sharing took place. Trish also gave three examples of recipients of Thank Offering money: deaconesses who do specialized ministry in NC and MD and McCurdy School to which Jim Earnest has a connection.

Marna, UMW president, reported that Gail Lashley has volunteered to head up the Agape Patri meals. The rest of the team will be Lee Dunlop, Sue Baker, Sherri & Jack Kockentiet, Carol and Al Gore, and Marna.

The plan for running the spring rummage/bake sale is to schedule eight persons, two per day for four days. The responsibilities for each day, sorting, pricing, selling and cleaning up, etc. will be clearly spelled out in writing.



Nancy Vail, Maurine Scott, Marge Winkle, Trish Rankin, Helen Metcalfe, Janet Jennings, Alta Smith, Marna Burwell, Helen Connell, Lee Dunlop

**Gloria Wysner circle members around the table.**



Nancy Vail, Maurine Scott, Marge Winkle, Helen Metcalfe, Linny McNeill, Janet Jennings, Alta Smith, Marna Burwell— Trish Rankin in background.



~pic by Linny McNeill



## Hidden Talents - Jane Rhoades

~Linn McNeill

To say that Jane Rhoades has lived a full, active, and interesting life is an understatement.

When I met Jane, she had just celebrated her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday with her family, November 12, 2012.

Jane's maternal grandfather, John Frush, ran off at 15 to enlist in the Union Army and fought in the Civil War. Jane's parents, Bessie Edna Frush and Vernon Arthur Lyon were married in the First Methodist Church in Clarksburg, West Virginia, and they welcomed Margaret Jane, their firstborn, in 1920. Her father was really glad to have a little girl because growing up he was always surrounded by boys, since all his siblings were brothers. Jane later enjoyed two younger brothers, Carl and Cecil. Among Jane's earliest memories of her dad was of him rocking her on his lap in his rocking chair and singing "Old Black Joe," an old American folk song by Stephen Foster:

"Where are the hearts once so happy and free?  
The children so dear that I held them on my knee?  
Gone to the shore where my soul has longed to go,  
I hear their gentle voices calling— Old Black Joe"  
I'm coming, I'm coming, for my head is bending low.  
I hear their gentle voices calling— Old Black Joe."

Little did she know that as she grew up, music would become an important part of her life.

Her father, Vernon, worked on the B&O Railroad, served on the Clarksburg, West Virginia City Council, was active in the Methodist church, and was president of United Methodist Men.



Jane—12 yrs. old  
December 1932

Jane's mother, Bess, was also very active in the Clarksburg Methodist Church, cooking for church dinners, was involved in UMW, and did other volunteer work. Bess was a hard working woman and Jane recalls watching and helping her mother with many household chores. There were no washing machines. Washing clothes was quite an operation with the old washtub and scrub board method, and then hanging them up outside to dry in the sunshine on the clothesline. She says she can still smell that fresh, clean scent from outdoor sun drying to this day! There were no vacuum cleaners. They had to sweep the house by hand and take the rugs outdoors to beat out the dust with a metal rug beater. There were no refrigerators. They had a metal icebox to keep food cold with a large block of ice in one side and the food in the other side. Jane's mother would put up a sign outside their door for the iceman to indicate how much ice to bring and Jane remembers sitting on the steps watching for the iceman to come down the street. Bess thought the reason Jane was so interested in everything was because she thought she might miss something! What an exciting day Jane recollects, when her family finally got their first refrigerator!



Jane, 19 yrs. old  
Feb. 14, 1940

## *Hidden Talents ~ Jane Rhoades (continued from page 3)*



On vacation at Outerbanks, NC  
with brothers: Carl, Jane, Cecil

Jane walked to school and came home for lunch. She was quite a tomboy and with two brothers, was always playing baseball and swimming in the creeks nearby. Finally one day Bess told her "If you're going to act like a boy, at least you're going to look like a girl." So she taught her to sew on an old treddle sewing machine and Jane learned to make many of her dresses and other clothes.

In high school, Jane joined the Acapella choir and discovered she loved singing and performing. She also learned to play the piano and pipe organ and helped with the children's choir at United Brethren Church on Duff Street in Clarksburg, later to become the UMC. One day she came home from school to a very delightful surprise—her parents had saved up and bought her a Story and Clark upright piano! Growing up in the Depression, they weren't used to luxuries, but her parents must have recognized her talent. Jane still has this piano in her home!

After high school, a friend wrote some music for Jane to sing and they formed an Acapella group. This singing group began to travel rather extensively to perform, sometimes entering contests, and usually winning. They traveled around West Virginia and throughout the region, often taking in some sightseeing during the daytime. These were fond experiences for Jane. One time they competed in a large singing competition in Pittsburgh, Pa, taking second place to a Black Spiritual group. They also performed at Mountain Lake Park, a resort in Oakland, Maryland.

Jane went to West Virginia Business College after high school, then took extra business training through the WPA (Works Progress Administration), which was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. She was subsequently hired by the GAB Business Services (General Adjustment Bureau), now known as GAB Robbins. She worked for them her whole career, starting out as a clerk and ending up as a regional secretary in Washington, D.C, before retiring.

She was active in the BPW Foundation (Business and Professional Women), an international organization focused on issues that impact women, families, and employers, to create diverse and successful workplaces. She incorporated her musical talents into her BPW activities, often playing the piano and singing at BPW events and functions. It was through this club that she met United States Secretary of the Treasury Ivy Baker Priest, who was the featured speaker at a large BPW dinner meeting in Clarksburg. Jane still has the dollar bill that Ivy autographed for her that night!



Jane being honored for her work with a diamond in Baltimore, MD.

A few of the locations Jane worked from in her career include Baltimore, Maryland, Asbury Park, New Jersey, Silver Springs, Maryland, Falls Church, Virginia, Parkersburg, West Virginia, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

In March 1943, Jane Lyon married her husband, Drexell Blaine Rhoades, and in May 1945 their son Arthur Blaine was born. Blaine still lives in Apple Valley. Jane's husband Drex died in 1981.

## *Hidden Talents ~ Jane Rhoades* (continued from page 4)

Jane has many interesting stories about her career life. While in Washington, D.C, Jane had national investigative accounts with the Department of Transportation, handling cases such as “lemon automobiles” and defective Firestone tires. They also had cases for the National Corporation for Housing Partnership. Her job was to type up reports of the investigators' findings. One time they had an apartment neglect case where a woman who practiced witchcraft in a brand new apartment, had damaged it totally due to the chemicals she used in her voodoo rituals, such as sulfur and others. The odor ruined the apartment, and the chemicals ruined the plumbing. They also handled a case from South America involving an import-export bank that had financed heavy machinery and John Deere equipment to Columbia and Venezuela. She got along better on those cases than some of her peers because she had taken French and Spanish and could read and understand the documents.



Jane celebrating her 72nd birthday at the MTV Station Break

Another fascinating story involves a part of American history. While in Washington, D.C, she was responsible for typing a lot of investigative reports stemming from all the damage to stores, buildings and apartments caused by the 1968 race riots. It was really hard work, but helpful to her career because she learned so much. GAB Business Services leased a beautiful suite in the opulent Watergate Office Building to work from which they called the “riot office.” Her company also leased Jane a room next door at the Watergate Hotel, but after a short time, she decided to stay with her brother Carl nearby in Virginia, and to drive in every day to the capital. Her

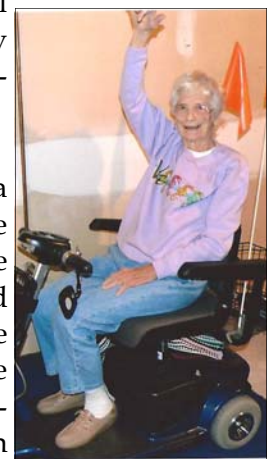


Jane & her cat, Abbey

daily commute took her past the Lincoln Memorial, so she also had to drive by “Resurrection City”. Her company worried about Jane driving through this area because of the uncertainty generated by the marches and demonstrations, so they gave her a company car and a two-way radio. There were no cell phones. “Resurrection City” was a temporary tent and plywood shantytown erected at the National Mall, built around the Reflecting Pool near the Washington Monument. It was occupied by the “Poor Peoples' Campaign” who were in Washington to gain national attention for civil rights in May and June, 1968, coming on the heels of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968. Over 2500 activists arrived by bus from Mississippi, Alabama, and the South, as well as many more from all around the country. To make matters worse, Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated June 5, 1968, and his funeral procession passed right through Resurrection City on the way to Arlington National Cemetery, thus adding to the unrest. On June 19, “Solidarity Day”, (now known as “Juneteenth”) over 50,000 people joined the protest, which eventually erupted into a massive riot, ultimately shutting down Resurrection City.

When Jane retired after 38 years with GAB Business Services, she was given a TV and a watch. She had previously been given a diamond on every five year anniversary with the company. It's safe to say that Jane's strong work ethic comes from both her parents. Jane moved to Mount Vernon in 1986 because her son Blaine was already in the area. She loved swimming laps in the Apple Valley pool and taught her grandchildren to swim there. She joined the Gay Street Methodist Church, met Ruth Clark, and joined the UMW. Her circle was the Lydia-Ruth circle, (now Glora Wysner). While in UMW she held the offices of secretary and treasurer of her circle. For circle programs, she would record hymns to use in the meetings. She always enjoyed UMW and other church activities until it became too difficult to attend.

Jane says she misses driving, but sure does love having visitors! Occasionally on a nice day she can be spotted riding her scooter over to Krogers. What an amazing life journey this charming, feisty lady has had!



Jane waiting for a sunny day to take her scooter for a spin.



## Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter

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"Think Globally, Act Locally"

Witn<sup>ess</sup>  
Of  
Wom<sup>en</sup>

Deadline for the next issue is:  
December 20, 2012

## Dates for your Calendar

Glora Wysner and Dorcas Circles will not meet in January or February.

Sunday, January 6 after church—counting the spare chain for Community Assistance fund raiser. Refreshments will be provided.

Sarah Circle will meet January 9, 2013 at 12 Noon at the church. (note we have switched to the second Wednesday of the month now.



Conference officers doing a sacred dance.

## Scenes from UMW Annual Celebration

Carrying in the banners

Pics by Trish Rankin