

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



Inside this issue:

<i>Christmas Luncheon</i>	2
<i>Recipe for Ham Balls</i>	2
<i>Tell Your Stories</i>	3
<i>Circle Information</i>	4

UMW Executive Committee

- Catherine Seward, Team, 392-3496
- Carolyn Allar Team, 507-9825
- Linny McNeill Team, 397-3686
- Marietta Van Fossen Secretary, 397-1133
- Angie Richards Treasurer, 392-7904
- Norma Siekkinen Ast. Treas., 397-4386

The Closet Is Proving To Be A Blessing To Many

~Peg McCracken

The Closet had twenty-four visitors in October; thirty in November and twenty-eight in December.

Also this month, we passed out bags of candy and had filled stockings with books, crayons, small toys, puzzles, coloring books and small toys for each child who came in. We gave the women small gifts of travel sized soap, shampoo, talcum, etc. We had gotten donations of blankets, throws and afghans, which were taken right away.

Every donation of hats, scarves and gloves and many coats were distributed. Many said they didn't need an item (like shampoo or toothpaste) this month, they had some left from the month before. Many, many folks



thanked us. The items most in demand are dish detergent, laundry detergent, toilet tissue, hand soap, and tissues.

Virginia Kline made dish cloths which we attached to bottles of dish soap. We went through more than one case of toilet tissue in

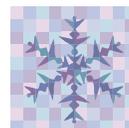
December alone. We'd

had a request for a sleeping bag and by chance, Sue and I knew of a woman who wanted to donate one. This is proving to be a very satisfying mission.

If you would want to make a monetary donation to The Closet, make your check out to Gay Street UMC and in the memo section write "The Closet." You may donate needed items, too.

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

~Maya Angelou



United Methodist Women Christmas Luncheon

~pics & article by Debbie Baker



Rev. Carol Topping

For the UMW Christmas program a slide show was presented of the Lands of the Bible trip by Trish Rankin. Mary Kepple accompanied the slides with hymns while Carol Topping and Janet Jennings added trip observations.



Mary Kepple



Trish Rankin

Ham Ball Recipe

~Norma Siekkinen



I took ham balls to the UMW luncheon, and several women asked for the recipe. This was the recipe of the late Kay Wiggins, she was a great cook, and always cooked and helped with the bazaars that the UMW held every fall. My daughter got it from Kay's daughter Gail.

Ham Balls

- 1 1/2 pounds of ham loaf mix
- 2/3 cup cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- shape into balls (small for use with toothpicks, or larger for a meal)

Place on cookie sheet (I spray the pan) cover with glaze, bake at 300 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.

Glaze

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup pineapple juice
- 2 tbsp vinegar
- 1/3 cup dark karo
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- 2 tbsp flour
- mix and cook until thick (I cook in the micro-wave)

I placed crushed pineapple over the balls before cooking.

Enjoy!

Olson to United Methodist Women: “Tell Your Stories”

by YVETTE MOORE AND BARBARA WHEELER*

Women’s Division chief executive Harriett Jane Olson called on directors to stop being reticent and engage in story telling that shared United Methodist Women’s important work with women, children and youth during her address at the organization’s fall board meeting in Stamford, Conn., Oct. 10-13.

Ms. Olson talked about the power of storytelling in sharing life’s most valued truths, a method Jesus used in the parables. United Methodist Women’s stories are part of that tradition. In responding to dehumanizing conditions faced by women across town and the globe, United Methodist Women foremothers found their own humanity and power, Ms. Olson said.

United Methodist Women members are sometimes hesitant to talk about their faithful mission work for fear of appearing prideful. Other times they simply undervalue the work they do – a behavior not uncommon among women.

“We need to stop doubting the importance of our story,” Ms. Olson said. “The work of United Methodist Women is important work. Mobilizing women for mission and service so that they may more completely live out their baptism and more fully share and experience Christ’s work is important. We need to tell the story for the good of our members, for the good of those who would be members and for the good of the broken world that God loves.

“We need to tell the story because we need to hear it ourselves,” she said. “We need to be reminded of what it is that moves us to speak up one more time about the causes of poverty. We need to be reminded of what we learned about ourselves and about the work of God as we risked offering leadership in some boundary-breaking way.”

The practice of storytelling is fundamental in seeking social justice – offering opportunities for liberation, Ms. Olson said. “Learning the stories of those on the margins, telling them in theaters of power, supporting and equipping oppressed persons so that they can tell their own stories is a powerful way to speak truth to power. ... We are dealing with the lives of real people and how systems and structures actually work. Storytelling from the margins is an important practice.”

Ms. Olson recalled the important history of United Methodist Women and its ongoing work within the United Methodist Church, organized for mission and connecting with the larger denomination’s four prescribed focus areas for the next four years. The church’s focus for work includes:

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world;
- New places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing congregations;
- Engaging in ministry with the poor; and
- Stamping out killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.



Harriett Jane Olson

These four areas exemplify work United Methodist Women has been engaged in since it’s inception nearly 140 years ago.

“We see our work as having deep alignment with all of these four areas of focus and we can use that language to tell some of our story,” Ms. Olson said. “We do not assume that this language tells all of our story, and we will continue to tell that part of the story, too – the work for peace among nations, the attention to issues of gender justice and our efforts to take on racism in all its forms will continue to be part of our story.”

Ms. Olson urged directors to share their journeys as members of United Methodist Women. She implored them to reveal glimpses of their lives in United Methodist Women and in the world to grow the “family lore.”

Division directors took action on Ms. Olson’s words the following day, recording their stories of being in Christ’s mission through United Methodist Women. Their oral stories will be posted to United Methodist Women’s website, www.umwmission.org.

“The story of United Methodist Women is part of the deep and true story of God’s love for creation,” she said. “Let’s tell it together.”

Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter



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Deadline for the next issue is:
January 14, 2010.

UMW Information

Norma's term as circle chairperson for the Glora Wysner circle is ending and Linny McNeil will be their new chairperson in 2010. Since the nominating committee was unable to find officers for 2010, the Board decided that in 2010 the leaders of the three circles, Dorcas, Glora Wysner, and Sarah will serve as a team to carry out duties normally assumed by the President and

~Janet Jennings

Vice President. The team will be Catherine Seward, Linny McNeil, and Carolyn Allar. Treasurer and Secretary will remain the same. Due to the fact that we have fewer active UMW members, our pledge to the district is going to be \$800 in 2010. This works out to about \$25 to \$30 per member for 2010.



**United
Methodist
Women**

Circle Meetings

Wednesday, January 13: Dorcas Circle 9:30 a.m. at the church

Wednesday, January 20: Sarah Circle 7:00 p.m. at the church

The Glora Wysner Circle will not be meeting in January or February.

If school is delayed or postponed the day of our planned meeting, it will be canceled.

