

March 2009
Volume 2, Issue 3

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



Inside this issue:

<i>Dorcas Circle News</i>	2
<i>Mary Martha News</i>	2
<i>140th Birthday</i>	3
<i>Sudan Study</i>	3
<i>Call to Prayer & Self-Denial</i>	4
<i>Circle Meetings & Missional Giving</i>	5
<i>School of Christian Mission</i>	6



Rummage Sale/Bake Sale Coming Soon

It is time to start gathering items for the April 1 & 2 Rummage Sale and Bake Sale. We can use household items, gently used clothing and toys, and various other collectibles and treasures.

You may start bringing items in on Monday, March 30. Please leave them in the Fellowship Hall.

April 1 sale time is: 4– 8 p.m.

April 2 sale time is: 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Baked goods are needed for the Bake Sale. Do you have a special recipe for

cookies, a pie, or other goodie that you enjoy making and would like to share? (Please mark it with a suggested price.) Proceeds help support missions --- many of which are in our own community.



- UMW Executive Committee
- Peg McCracken
President, 397-2252
 - Janet Rehling
Vice Pres., 397-5017
 - Marietta Van Fossen
Secretary, 397-1133
 - Angie Richards
Treasurer, 392-7904
 - Norma Siekkinen
Ast. Treas., 397-4386

*Spring District Meeting
United Methodist Women*

~ ~ ~ ~

*Saturday, April 25
9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.*

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church

Contact Peg McCracken (397-2252) to reserve a spot.

Mary Martha Circle News



Mary Martha circle met with Ruth Hubbell February 11. She opened the meeting by reading "Promises of Gladness." Two important promises are hope and faith. One of our members Lucille

Riley passed away recently. Ten dollars was given towards a book in her memory for the library. In May our circle will provide the program for the All Daughter Banquet.

In June, for the Red Cross

luncheon, we will provide a relish plate. In March the meeting will be with Lucille Bowden who will provide the program from our program book.

~Lucille Bowden

Dorcas Circle Happenings



The Dorcas Circle met in February at the home of Virginia Kline with six members present. Virginia served very delicious refreshments to start the meeting including an unusual cinnamon roll. Everyone enjoyed it.

dates was long and need much discussion. Here are the results:

- Dorcas Circle will have the luncheon following the Executive meeting on March 4. Program for the day will be "Education & Interpretation"
- Spring Rummage Sale April 1 & 2
- All Daughter Banquet will be May 6 and we are in charge of decorations. Please bring ideas to our March 11 meeting at the church.
- Fall Rummage Sale will be October 7 & 8.

suggestions where people could help us as elder church people. The inside and outside ladder days appeals to everyone. We want to use these helpful people. Those of us who have used them in the past have been very thankful for them and what they have done.

Don't forget to bring seeds or money for the J.A.M. seed project through March 22.

~Catherine Seward

Since we had no January meeting because of all the ice and snow, Virginia and Marietta Van Fossen combined the program. Marietta had "Who Am I at the Table" and the Prayer and Self-Denial program of Virginia's. The devotions came partly from the book "Three Single Rules" by Reuben R. Job.

Virginia Kline brought up the program "Carpenter's Hands" and asked for

The calendar of 2009

**J.A.M.
Jackson Area
Ministries:
Dorcas Seed Project**

2008 Garden Report

- 2928 Gardens in 18 Counties
- 600 pounds of bulk sweet corn
- 50,100 pounds of seed potatoes
- 600 pounds of bulk green beans
- 21,456 tomato plants
- Expenses: \$5,851.47

Happy 140th Birthday United Methodist Women



Do You Know? March 23, 2009 will be the 140th Anniversary of the beginning of the organization that we now know as United Methodist Women!

On March 23, 1869, in Boston, eight women gathered at Tremont Street Methodist Episcopal Church to form the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Isabella Thoburn and Clara Swain left for India in November of 1869 as the Society's first missionaries. It was the first of eight women's missionary societies founded by our predecessor organizations. Today, we continue the legacy of women organized for mission as United Methodist Women.

From 1869 to 1893, our foremothers organized eight foreign and home mis-

sionary societies...the first was the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the last was the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church. Through various denominational unions and mergers, the organization that became known as United Methodist Women experienced changes in names and structure. However, the purpose has remained the same. Like our predecessors, members of United Methodist Women have made a lifetime commitment to Christ's mission in the world. For over a century, members have united to pray together, to raise funds for mission, and to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. Let's renew our life in mission with the zeal of our foremothers!

The Beauty & Courage of Sudan: Mission Study Theme

The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace Is Possible, Mission Study, 2009-2010

For most of the past twenty years the country of Sudan has been plagued with severe drought. Desertification is apparent in the west, where thorn bushes dominate the savanna landscape of South Darfur and are killing out the native acacia trees. The shortages of food due to drought have sometimes reached famine proportions. Climate change in Sudan is not just a looming crisis; it is the reality on the ground. And then there are the wars of Sudan: unremitting, for nearly all its history.

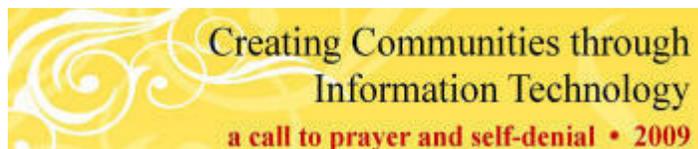
The Mission Study for 2009-2010, *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace Is Possible*, written by Linda Beher, with study guide by Maxine West, offers an extended portrait of Sudan. Explored are an overview of history that began in Bible times;

the country's main ethnicities, religions and languages; touch points and possible causes for the wars; the way Sudanese women are contributing to the peace process and to the culture as a whole; a critique of the severe impact of colonialism and current challenges; and some ways in which people of faith can embrace and affirm the Sudanese people. Sudan is "other" in ways that disconcert Westerners who struggle to understand. The theologian Sally McFague encouraged us to view differences with others with a "loving eye" rather than the "arrogant eye" sometimes brought to such discourse. Using our loving eye in this study, we can see that Sudan and its people embody and inspire many of the issues of the 21st Century continent of Africa. Their beauty and courage promise the hope that eventually they will realize the dream of peace.





Call to Prayer & Self Denial



Calling all United Methodist Women to Prayer and Self Denial!

Has your unit made plans to celebrate Call to Prayer and Self Denial this year? This special observance is usually held the first few months of each new year. **The theme for 2009 is "Creating Communities through Information Technology"**. The offering will fund grassroots projects that support local communities with opportunities for computer literacy, information technology training, English-As-A-Second-Language classes, and career enhancement and job-seeking skills. Marginalized populations, such as the poor, the physically challenged and others - especially women, children and youth - will gain access to information technology with these offerings.

The Quiet Day service for the Call to Prayer and Self Denial is in our *2009 United Methodist Women Program Book—Who's at the Table?*.

[Prayer from the 2009 Call to Prayer & Self Denial Prayer Card:](#)

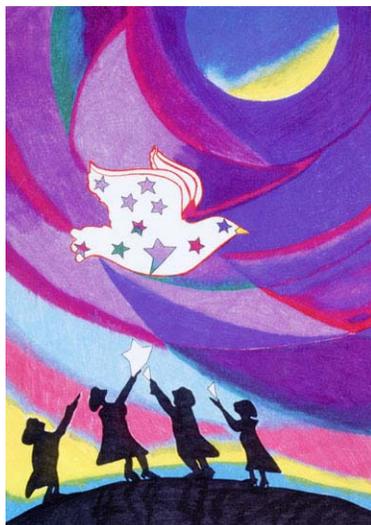
God of community, you call us to prayer and self-denial, and you call us to remember your generosity and our Christian responsibility to give.

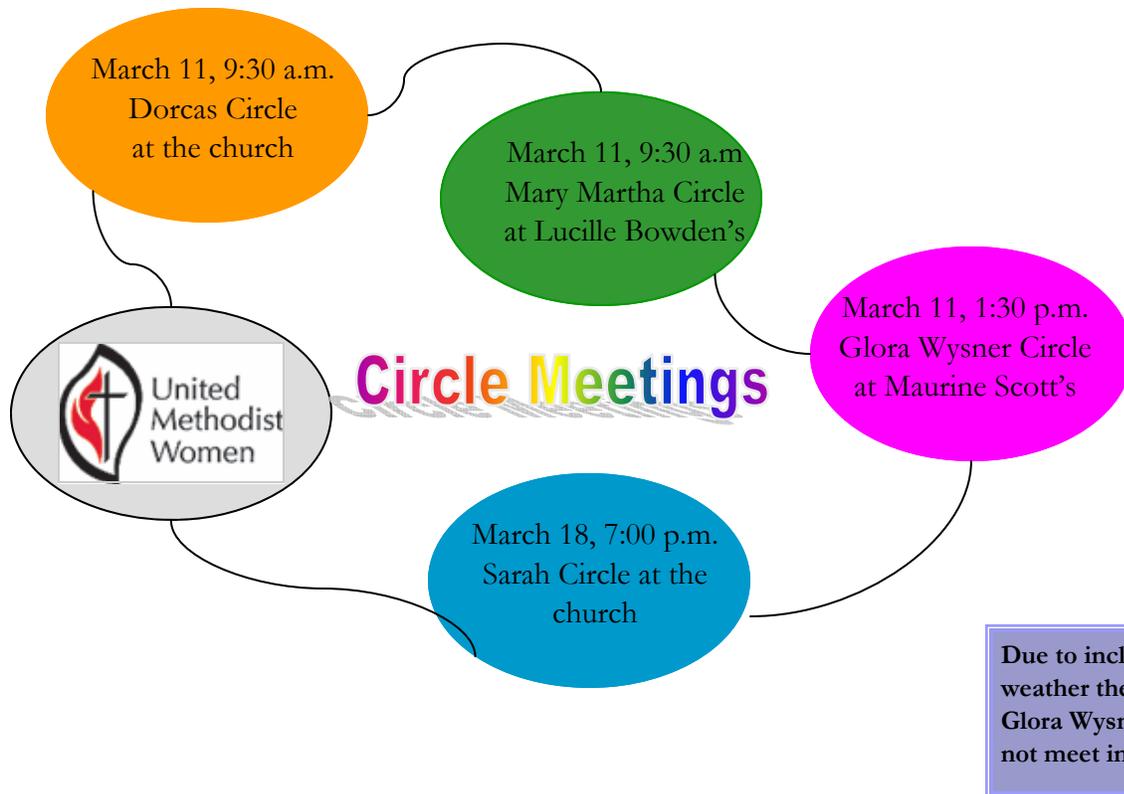
God, you bless us with an abundance of grace and mercy.

God, you give us lives of opportunity and access to materials that meet our needs. In response to your abundance, may we seek justice for those who are marginalized.

May we especially remember women, children and youth living in your world of abundant grace and mercy, but who may not have the same abundance of opportunities or access to resources. May we be a blessing to the communities we serve through our gifts.

Make us mercy-giving, grace-abiding and justice-seeking women, working with our community at home and our community around the world to bring about your abundance on earth. Amen.





"Think Globally, Act Locally"

Mission Outreach of the UMW



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

In 2008 the United Methodist Women of Gay Street UMC gave to the following:

- \$1,350 Interchurch
- \$ 250 Interchurch building fund
- \$1,000 Gay Street UMC
- \$ 250 Hospice
- \$ 250 New Directions

- \$ 125 Children's Connection
- \$ 639 Project Noah
- \$ 200 Dorcas Seed Project
- \$ 48 Bible a Month
- \$ 125 Red Bird Mission
- \$ 1,500 District Pledge
- Total giving to missions

\$5,737!!

The total program of United Methodist Women and the Women's Division is mission. This includes individual growth, spiritual

enrichment, education for mission, social issues awareness, leadership development, schools and workshops, and financial support for mission programs and projects throughout the U.S. and around the world. True to our Wesleyan heritage, mission cannot be solely charity, but involves empowerment and advocacy for social change. By combining the two, we can be witnesses to the love and life of Jesus Christ.

To see a map of where all the UMW missions are located
<http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/money/missionmap/>

Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter

Gay Street United Methodist Church
18 North Gay Street
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050-3287
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 740-392-6626
Fax: 740-393-3492
Website: www.gaystreetumc.org
E-mail: jtalbott@gaystreetumc.org
Editor: Jan Talbott

NON-PROFIT
POSTAGE
PAID
(USPS Permit #635)
Mount Vernon, OH
43050-3287

Witness
Of
Women



East Ohio United Methodist Women

2009 School of Christian Mission Events

Mount Union Events

**Friday, July 17—One-Day Sampler & Children's
Event**

**Friday-Sunday, July 17-19—Weekend Event for
Adults, Young Women, & Children**

Lakeside Event

**Friday-Sunday, September 11-13—Weekend Event
for Adults & Young Women**

Studies

Food & Faith

Beauty & Courage of Sudan

Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival

Together at the Table

For generations the table has been an important symbol for the gathered community. It is around the table that food is shared, discussions are held, decisions are made, crafts are created and board games are played. As Christians, we are reminded of the significance of the table in Jesus' life and ministry. All along his journey, Jesus shared meals in the home of friends. In the temple, he overturned the tables of injustice. On the eve of his death, around the table with his disciples, he broke bread and set forth a means of grace for all who would believe. Yet, when we gather at the table, there are contradictions. At the table, there is feast and there is famine. At the table, treaties are made and treaties are broken. At the table, hospitality is offered and hospitality is denied. At the table we gather to celebrate and we gather to grieve. At the table there is peace and there is conflict. At the table, there is hope and there is doubt. Our human frailties and the realities of the world in which we live too often divide and exclude people at our tables. The Christ we follow calls us to a higher standard of living and loving as together we work for peace and justice for all of creation.

As the Psalmist says "*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations . Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*" (Psalm 90:1-2)

Though we are many, we are bound by a living God who goes before us and embraces all. In the sacred circle of life, enfolding the world and all that dwells therein, all are together at the table of God's love.