

*"Think Globally, Act Locally"*



Inside this issue:

<i>Three Rivers District Report</i>	2
<i>Scenes from District meeting</i>	3
<i>Gloria Wyszner Tidbits</i>	4
<i>Book Review</i>	4
<i>Sarah Circle Highlights</i>	5
<i>Rummage/Bake Sale</i>	5
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	6

*UMW Three Rivers District Report* ~Linnny McNeill

The Fredericktown United Methodist Church hosted the Spring UMW Three Rivers District meeting Saturday, April 2, with a good turnout from our Gay Street United Methodist Church. Delegates were: Carolyn Allar, Kathleen Breneman, Linnny McNeill, Trish Rankin, Maurine Scott (with guest, Alice Adebiyi), Shirley Workman and Marge Winkle.

Catherine Miller, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, had devotions and asked the question "are we as Methodists obligated to give to missions?" The answer of course, is to take care of our people at home AND also to help those less fortunate around the world, to share the word of the Lord. We need to leave "heartprints" wherever we go. Heartprints is from a poem called "If God had a Refrigerator, Your Picture is on it."

Our "Bag Lady" Maurine Scott gave her report on bookbags -2,400 made and distributed in 2010, and 10,000 total given out to date! Wow! What a proud accomplishment for all involved. Maurine spoke briefly about a Kenyon College student from Sinapore who did mission work in Ghana, and then introduced her guest Alice Adebiyi, a Nigerian girl also a student at Kenyon who grew up in London, and spoke on missions to Nigeria.

District president, Marilyn Wyler presented mission recognitions to the various units. Gay Street received all three: "Mission Today," "Rainbow" and "Five-Star Unit." Way to go ladies!



Susan McCurdy, Reading and Resource Chairman handed out Reading program awards for 2010. From our church, Janet Jennings, Trish Rankin and Linnny McNeill received awards for books read.

Our morning guest speaker was Rev. Delaine McGhee, an enthusiastic and animated presenter from the Grafton United Methodist Church in the Firelands District. We knew she was going to be a down-to-earth gal when she kicked off her shoes! Her talk was "Sisters Here, Sisters Everywhere." Sisters are different flowers from the same garden.

**UMW Executive Committee**

- Catherine Seward co-leader, 392-3496
- Carolyn Allar co-leader, 507-9825
- Linnny McNeill co-leader, 397-3686
- Peg McCracken, Secretary, 397-2252
- Angie Richards Treasurer, 392-7904
- Norma Siekkinen Ast. Treas., 397-4386
- To be named, Program Resource

## *UMW Three Rivers District Report* continued from page 1 ~Linny McNeill

Louisa Mae Alcott said “help one another” is the key phrase of sisterhood. Rev. Delaine spoke on lingering bias by some against the Japanese because of Pearl Harbor in WW II, making it difficult for some to have compassion and give aid to the earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan because they can’t get over old wrongs of the past and move on. This ignores Bible scripture in Matthew “I was hungry and you fed me, I was naked and you clothed me....etc.” “When you did these to your brothers and sisters, you did it for me.” There are over 925 million hungry people in the world, and 43 million people living in poverty in America! We could be the poor if we refuse the Lord. (Upon hearing a siren go past the church, she paused in the middle of her talk to pray for that situation.) In the book *When Helping Hurts*, “God is inherently a relational being.” Relationships are broken by many types of sin. Who are the poor? Poverty is the result of relationships that don’t work. Poverty is not limited to a lack of material possessions. The root of poverty is grounded in brokenness of relationships. Examples: Poverty of community—we don’t always know our neighbors anymore—we move in and out and many don’t even know each other’s names. Poverty of stewardship—not taking care of the Earth and her wonderful resources. Disciples of Jesus are called to be liberators of the poor. The Church serves as the body of Christ here on Earth. Those less fortunate are like sheep without a shepherd. She stressed compassion as a way of life, not an event. The spiritually hungry could be closer than you think. They can’t be helped from the comfort of our church pews. We need to be willing to step outside our familiar boundaries. Sometimes the poor is us.

In the afternoon session, Trish Rankin, the 2011 Reading and Resource Chairman gave the Book Review. The standout recommendation was “Disfigured” about an abused woman in Saudia Arabia.

The afternoon speaker was Terrie Baker, MDIV, whose presentation was “Initiation to Bridges Out of Poverty.” What gives us the right to judge others? No one. When we compare ourselves to others, we are creating social classes. Jesus said: “do not judge, lest ye be judged.” We all have tendencies to pick at the splinters in other’s eyes and ignore the log in our own eye. Speaking on economic classes (poverty, middle class, wealth) she said poverty is the extent to which a person does without resources. Oftentimes the middle class makes the rules. Situational poverty is due to death, illness, divorce, job loss, etc., and is temporary. Generational poverty is for two or more generations. Tyranny of the moment – the need to act overwhelms any willingness people have to learn. Most organizations are middle class: church, business, schools, agencies, social justice system. Our mission in the church is to help others transition out of poverty. Mental messages: sometimes we see one picture and think of everything it represents. Terrie used the example of a picture of rubber bands and the Great Depression. They used to save everything to be frugal and not wasteful. It signified limited resources and protecting what they had. No significant change occurs without a significant relationship. The Church’s role is to help people: make change, identify choices, develop power, stabilize life. Missions should be done with people, not just for people. The two great commandments in Matthew “Love the Lord God with all your heart and soul and mind.” And “Love your neighbor as yourself.” This is the bridge of mission-bringing all to the table together. Mental model for poverty: people survive through relationships. Poverty deals with the NOW. In poverty, 59% of their money goes to housing. In middle class, 33% of their money goes to housing. In wealth, only 11% of their money goes to housing. Mental model for wealth: deals with a generation or two ahead. We should never criticize the rules of another class because they are used for survival. We should utilize the rules of another class because they are used for survival. We should utilize our resources: spiritual, physical, support systems, both mentally and socially.

The Three Rivers UMW Fall District meeting will be September 24 at Roscoe Village in Coshocton.





Mary Elder, Fredericktown UMC member



Carolyn Allar



Maurine Scott & Alice Adebiyi



Trish Rankin, Marge Winkle, Maurine Scott, Shirley Workman, Marna Burwell, Carolyn Allar

### Scenes from the Spring District Meeting



Alice Adebiyi, Carolyn Allar, Marge Winkle, Maurine Scott, Shirley Workman



Marilyn Wyler, District UMW President



Terrie Baker, Grace UMC



Betty Smith, Fredericktown UMC



Linda Oswald, Danville UMC and Linny McNeill

~pics by Marge Winkle & Linny McNeill



Alice Adebiyi, Carolyn Allar, Linny McNeill, Shirley Workman, Maurine Scott



## Gloria Wysner Circle Tidbits

~Janet Jennings

Fifteen members of the Gloria Wysner circle met at the home of Marna Burwell on April 13, a beautiful spring day. Present in addition to Marna were Linny McNeill, Alta Smith, Marge Winkle, Elsie Spurgeon, Janet Jennings, Shirley Workman, Helen Connell, Kathy Blackburn, Lee Dunlop, Trish Rankin, Bonnie Magaw, Maurine Scott, Nancy Vail, and Carol Topping.



Helen Connell, Marna Burwell, Trish Rankin, Kathy Blackburn, Linny McNeill, Maurine Scott, Carol Topping, Marge Winkle, Janet Jennings, Nancy Vail, Elsie Spurgeon, Bonnie Magaw, Alta Smith, Shirley Workman

Marna seated us all at tables and served delicious fresh fruit cups along with home-baked goodies and a choice of several beverages. After food and fellowship, Helen Connell opened the business meeting with prayer. Linny McNeil, chair, presided. Shirley Workman, secretary pro tem last month, read the minutes of the March meeting.

Nancy Vail inquired whether anyone knew if any church group was ministering to persons being held at the Knox County Jail. No one did, but there was interest in getting more information.

**Our next meeting will be May 11 at 1:30 at the home of Trish Rankin.** Trish will also have the program.



Kathy Blackburn, Linny McNeill, Maurine Scott, Carol Topping, Marge Winkle, Bonnie Magaw, Alta Smith, Shirley Workman



UMW will usher during the month of May  
Cliff Stewart - Head Usher



Helen Connell, Marna Burwell, Trish Rankin, Lee Dunlop, Nancy Vail, Elsie Spurgeon

## Book Review—“Half the Sky” ~Janet Jennings

I recently read a book from the UMW Reading List titled *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. The co-authors are Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, the first married couple to receive a Pulitzer Prize for journalism for their coverage of China’s Tianammen Square democracy movement in 1990. The title comes from a Chinese proverb that states “Women hold up half the sky.”

*Half the Sky* raises a passionate call to arms against our era’s most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world. Janet enlisted eleven others to read brief quotes from the book. One such quote was:

*“It appears that more girls have been killed in the last 50 years, precisely because they were girls, than men were killed in all the wars of the twentieth century.”*

The co-authors include many stories of extraordinary women struggling to survive and also of brave people, some from America, who are dedicating their lives to ending horrific abuses and medical neglect. The authors recommend that privileged young Americans should, if possible, travel to some of the developing countries and see for themselves what life is like for many. The book endorses the work of Greg Mortensen and other individuals, groups, and organizations. The final chapter provides concrete suggestions as to how to get involved. Two of the ways we’re involved are contributing to UMW missions and helping to send five from our church to Liberia this summer.



### *Sarah Circle Highlights* ~Janet Rehling

During the March circle meeting Carolyn Allar, Janet Rehling, Nancy Davis, Peg McCracken and Ruth Hubbell were present. Highlights from the meeting:

- Peg reported on The Closet. They serve 40 to 50 every month before Hot Meals. They are in serious need of financial and/or taxable donations.
- Peg and Norma are retiring from heading up Agape Patria funeral lunches.
- Our Circle said "yes" to Sue Harwell's request to provide lunch for the ISS Board during their April meeting at the Nazarene church.
- Peg gave a program on Saint Patrick and served refreshments depicting the holiday – even green lemonade!

Sue Harwell  
Pie Baker



### *Rummage/Bake Sale* ~Peg McCracken

Zoweeeeee! \$1,849.05 for the Sale. Good fairies had been at work when Norma and I arrived on Monday morning. We saw all the tables up and bags piled on them ready for us to sort. Many, many



Roger Marra  
Toter/Bouncer

thanks to the good fairies and to Nancy Davis, Diana & Doug Peterson, Janet & Ernie Rehling, Fern Harvey, Carolyn Allar, Sue Harwell, Greta Banbury, Sue Baker, Shirley Workman, Carol Coe, Lil Conley, Linny McNeill, Trish Rankin and Roger Marra [our bouncer and toter of big things]. Special thanks to Marna Burwell for Chairing the super-successful Bake Sale. Norma and I cannot thank everyone enough for the enormous amount of help we had this spring. Thanks to Ruth Hubbell, Lucille Bowden and Joyce Morgan for giving Marna a hand in the Bake Sale room; and, of course, all the bakers who out did themselves. If I have forgotten anyone,



Lucille Bowden

please forgive me, it's been a busy week. Thank you to Mary Cline and Frances Irvin for the food. And I can't forget Jason for morning coffee and Lisa Phillippi for feeding the workers on Monday and Tuesday. YOU ALL ARE VERY SPECIAL !!!!!!!! Thank you ever so much.

F.Y.I. Frank Austin, who picks up our left-overs, has been doing this for 30 years. It is a group from the Vanatta Church of Christ; they supply three homeless shelters in Columbus and go to Ironton once a month to stock up that warehouse. That warehouse is open to the public twice a week, with 125 to 150 people coming in. The Church's own warehouse is open twice a week on Wednesday and Saturday. So you see, nothing goes to waste. As a point of interest, we gave a large donation to Danville Interchurch, infant clothes to CareNet, donations to Mount Vernon Players [go see a performance and you'll see some of our donations], and to others.



Sue Baker

Norma Siekkinen

## Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter

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Deadline for the next issue is:  
May 19, 2011

## Dates to Remember

### Circle Meetings

May 11 – 9:30 a.m. Dorcas Circle meeting at Lucille Bowden's  
May 11 – 1:30 p.m. Glora Wysner Circle meeting at Trish Rankin's  
May 18 – 7:00 p.m. Sarah Circle meeting at the church



**June 18 Deadline** to sign up for School of Missions

**School of Christian Mission:** One-day sampler July 15

Three-day event July 15-17 both at Mount Union

A wonderful children's program for both the one-day and three-day schools will be available. Also, a special program for young women ages 13-18 will be held at the three-day event.

**Fall District UMW meeting** at Roscoe UMC: September 24

**Annual Celebration:** October 28-29 at Churchill UMC, Youngstown, Mahoning Valley District The theme is "A Time for New Beginnings."