

May 2012

Volume 5, Issue 4

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



### Luncheon and General Meeting

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall



Tropical beach theme - everyone encouraged to wear their tropical attire: straw hats, leis, tropical prints, sandals, flip-flops, etc.  
 Executive Board meets prior at 10:00 a.m.

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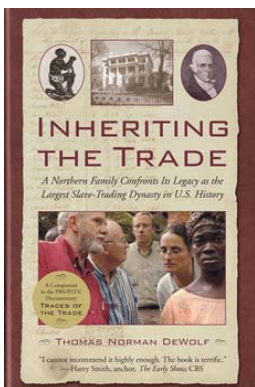


#### UMW Executive Committee

- 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

 A decorative graphic for an "All Daughter Tea" event. It features a central text box surrounded by illustrations of teacups, saucers, and a teapot. The text inside the box reads:
 

Join us for...  
**All Daughter Tea**  
 Saturday, May 12, 3:00 p.m.  
 Gay Street United Methodist  
 Church Fellowship Hall  
 Dress for the occasion - fancy hats optional, party attitude expected!  
 For more information contact Mary Blencowe at 392-6626 or [mary@gaystreetumc.org](mailto:mary@gaystreetumc.org).



## UMW Reading List ~ "Inheriting the Trade"

During the Glora Wysner Circle meeting, Janet Jennings presented a program based on a book from the UMW reading list titled *Inheriting the Trade*. In 2001, author of the memoir, Thomas Norman DeWolf, discovered that he was related to the most successful slave-trading family in U.S. history, responsible for transporting at least 10,000 Africans. He and ten other family members retraced their ancestors' steps through the notorious triangle trade route—from New England to West Africa to Cuba—and uncovered the hidden history of New England and the other northern states.

Janet asked circle members to consider how slavery has touched them as individuals, and several shared personal experiences. At least three have family members who are descended from slaves. One had visited the place in Ghana, West Africa, where Africans were held before they were put on slave ships and had seen the narrow doorway through which they were herded. Members took a multiple-choice quiz designed to make them more aware that certain aspects of our country's involvement with slavery have been glossed over in history books. For example, of the 14 million people who came to the New World between 1500 and 1800, 11 ½ million were brought here against their will as slaves. Another little known fact was that one family in the small state of Rhode Island was responsible for over half of the 2,000 slave voyages that originated from North American ports. The descendants of this family became leading citizens of the US and made many positive contributions. Janet emphasized that slavery and racial inequality was not just a Southern issue.

~Janet Jennings

East Ohio United Methodist Women have a new website and it looks great. Visit it at <http://eocumw.com/>

Sponsored by the East Ohio Conference UMC, Church & Society Committee, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and Conference United Methodist Women (UMW)

### "Modern Day Slavery in Ohio"

**May 19, 2012**

**9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Cost: \$5.00**

Wadsworth United Methodist Church  
195 Broad Street, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281  
Office # 330.336.6689

**Welcome:**  
COSROW & Rev. Paul White,  
Director of Connectional Ministries

**Keynote: Dr. Celia Williamson**

**Panel Discussion:**  
Ohio Representative Theresa Fedor - Legislation update  
Andrea Boxill - Franklin Co. Municipal Court General Division & CATCH  
Melinda Sykes w/The Ohio Attorney General Office  
- Update on the Trafficking in Persons Study Commission and Children's Initiative Director  
Jeanette Bradley  
- Trafficking survivor and Evangelist with 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Ministries

**Break**

Question & Answer Session with Panel & Keynote Speaker  
Moderator: Belinda Wing, Church & Society Committee

**Closing:**  
Betty Spencer, EOCUMW Social Action Chair

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: 5/5/2012 - Cost Includes "Break" with refreshments.**  
Make check made payable to: **East Ohio Conference UMC Fund #9661**  
Mail to: **East Ohio Conference UMC, PO Box 76019, Cleveland, Ohio 44101-4755**  
For more information call 800-831-3972, ext. 135.

# Hidden Talents ~ Trish Rankin

-Linnay McNeill



## Hidden Talents



Trish giving the message on April 15, UMW Sunday.

You all know Trish Rankin from seeing her serve our congregation here at Gay Street in many ways: sings in the Chancel Choir, reads scriptures as a Lay Reader, teaches a Bible study class, very active UMW member...most recently delivering the message as minister during UMW Sunday April 15.

There is much more about Trish you may not be aware of as I discovered on a beautiful Spring afternoon, at her Apple Valley home learning about her interesting life.

Trish currently holds the office of Program Resources for the UMW Three Rivers District which puts her in charge of reviewing and selling books and other program materials. Prior to that she chaired the Social Action office for UMW Three Rivers District for two



Giving the benediction

years, which involves the needs of people and how the church responds to them. And, as of October 2012, Trish will be sworn in as the new Three Rivers District President at the Fall Meeting. She admits being president is "pretty exciting and a little scary." She says she has been doing a lot of "trust" work with God to step out of her comfort zone, trusting God to be there with her. Her upcoming presidency and her recent preaching during UMW Sunday, are two good examples of that. How that came about: Marna Burwell, UMW President at Gay Street approached Trish about possibly using her class material from the book study she currently teaches called "Bad Girls of the Bible" from the book of the same name by Liz Curtis Higgs. So on UMW Sunday she chose to share the story of Samson and Delilah and the story of Christ with the woman at the well, to illustrate different Biblical women and how their disobedience and selfishness affected their lives and others around them.

When asked what the biggest impact her faith in God has had on her life, Trish shared thoughts about a five-year period of her life when everything seemed to go wrong: the deaths of four family members, (this was long before she lost her husband David Rankin) a daughter hit by a car leaving her wedding, an unfortunate family issue, and the loss of a large medical lawsuit. Trish said "I spent a lot of time on my knees at the altar praying and many prayed with and for me." Everyone kept asking her how she was getting through it. Her answer, "By being faithful." Trish's mother and grandmother taught her to deal with life. She calls them her "spiritual guides." Although growing up poor, she was blessed with strong women who gave her a solid Christian background.



She spent her early life in Johnstown, Pennsylvania moving to Florida as a teen where she met her husband David while they were both students at Southern College in Lakeland, Florida, a Methodist College. With her teaching degree she taught elementary school for 20 years, but what is amazing about that is that she offered her abilities to the school by teaching largely pro bono as a volunteer, which gave her much more flexibility and also freedom to interact with the children than a teacher under contract having more restrictions and limitations. *(continued on page 4)*



# Hidden Talents ~ Trish Rankin

(continued from page 3)

Trish was a Girl Scout Leader for many years and trained future Girl Scout Leaders. She served as Vice President of her UMW in Orlando, Florida, and in that capacity was responsible for presenting all the programs for UMW for several years. Family Life Coordinator was another title she held in her Community Methodist Church in Orlando for many years. Over a period of time, she taught Sunday School, was the Youth Director, and always sang in the Choir, some-



Winkles visiting Trish at her farm in Georgia



Trish with Camp Hope children

thing Trish has done consistently since she was 18 years old--wherever she lived, and even now participates in choir when visiting in California with her daughter or in Georgia where she owns a farm. She traveled with a vocal praise ensemble called "Promise" for fifteen years throughout Florida and locally she has sung with the Apple Valley Singers for the past six years.

Two Florida Youth Camps benefited from her leadership for about thirty years, teaching and writing curriculum for them. Trish directed Vacation Bible Schools for about twenty years both at Florida churches and here at Gay Street. For the last five or six years Trish taught, co-directed, and wrote curriculum for

Hospice's Camp Hope at Camp Mohaven outside Danville.

Trained Grief Counselor is another hat Trish wears, teaching classes and workshops on grief, and offering one-on-one sessions with recent widows and widowers. She directed "Rainbows," an Episcopalian grief program for those suffering from divorce or the death of a loved one. Trish recently authored the book "Where's the Veil? A Widow's Journey From Grief to Joy," and created a corresponding workshop to accompany the book. The personal experienced of losing her husband, David in January 2006 created a whole new understanding and compassion for those mourning.



The Fairy Garden

Trish, former president of the Apple Valley Garden Club, is a "gardener extraordinaire," and has done extensive landscaping down the hillside behind

her home leading down to the boat dock, fire pit, and party deck on Apple Valley Lake. She does all the work herself, and proudly showed her newest project--a "Fairy Garden" with miniature plants, flowers, houses, and statues, which her granddaughters adore. A love of entertaining, both inside and out has helped make her the consummate hostess, sometimes giving "theme" parties.



The Hostess

(continued on page 5)



## *Hidden Talents ~ Trish Rankin* (continued from page 4)

Having been in all fifty states and many other countries, Trish is certainly well-traveled. She is going to teach English in Israel this summer with Marti Moody, Maurine Scott's daughter who does humanitarian work there. This will be Trish's fourth trip to Israel. Other countries she has visited include Egypt, Greece, Italy, England, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Chile, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, and some of the Caribbean Islands. She also did mission work in Nicaragua and Guatemala. She lists an African Safari at the top of her travel bucket list.



Trish in Egypt

As to Trish's personal hidden talents, scrapbooking is a self-taught hobby she's enjoyed for 25 years. She loves making them for family and friends, keeping some for herself, having a wonderful, well-stocked scrapbook workroom in her home with all manner of supplies neatly organized.



Treasured dollhouse

On display in Trish's lower level is a precious, antique dollhouse--quite large and elaborate which was originally made by her grandfather for her as a little girl. Later, Trish and her daughter rebuilt and improved it, adding pieces, reupholstering the tiny furniture, making tiny curtains for tiny windows and wallpapering the walls, even laying wooden floors.

Another skill is sewing. She has been a prolific seamstress--making bedspreads, pillows, curtains, her clothes and even David's at one time in their lives. Once for an UMW fundraiser sewed twenty-four Raggedy Ann dolls. She quickly remarked this was a one-time-thing never to be repeated!

Perhaps, the most unusual of Trish's hidden talents is a form of art work called Encaustic Painting, using heated wax, resin, and pigment. It is then painted, and finally blow torched to achieve a desired effect. The result is an interesting, more muted form of the original. Trish has quite a few Encaustic paintings decorating her home.

Some of you know that Trish collects angels and Nativity sets, several of which have been lent to Gay Street for UMW gatherings to enjoy.

Trish assured me that her most valuable hidden talents were her children: Melissa, a physician/writer/speaker in Muir Beach, California; Kelli, a trained social worker in Orlando, Florida; and son, Chris, an advertising agency owner in Columbus, Ohio.



Trish with some of her Encaustic Paintings

Looking upon this outstanding lady's multitude of talents and how she has graciously chosen to share them with others throughout her life while serving the Lord makes us feel how truly blessed we are to have her in our midst, contributing to missions with her time and heart.

## Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter

Gay Street United Methodist Church  
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"Think Globally, Act Locally"

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Of  
Wom<sup>en</sup>

Deadline for the next issue is:  
May 17, 2012



### *Dates for your Calendar*

May 9: Dorcas Circle 9:30 a.m. at the church

Gloria Wysner Circle 1:30 p.m. at Shirley  
Workman's home

May 16: Sarah Circle 7:00 p.m. at the church

June 6: UMW Luncheon & General Meeting 11:30  
a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Executive Board meets  
at 10:00 a.m.

June 19-20 Jurisdiction in Des Moines, IA, Drake University

June 25: Final deadline for registration for School of Christian Mission—see the up-  
stairs bulletin board for info or check out the new website [www:eocumw.com](http://www:eocumw.com)

October 26-27, 2012: Annual Celebration at Faith UMC, North Canton, OH



Gloria Wysner Circle met at Alice Bark's home for the April meeting.