

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



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RUMMAGE/BAKES SALE REPORT ~Janet Jennings

The April 3 and 4 rummage/bake sale, headed by Carol and Al Gore, was very successful. The breakdown was rummage \$1,500.75; bake sale \$559.75 and boutique about \$600. Friday Night Hot Meals guests cashed in 39 coupons for free bags of clothing.

Marna thanked Shirley Workman for phoning UMW members for bake sale donations. Marna contacted other church members. Gores have added photos and notes to the rummage/bake sale leaders handbook and turned it in to guide whomever heads up the fall sale scheduled for October 2 & 3.

Noisy Can



The children's "noisy can" loose change collection on UMW Sunday netted \$234.07 for the Community Assistance fund. A total of \$644.26 has been collected for Community Assistance fund in the loose change collections.

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

The presentation of pins to the recipients of the 2012 special recognition will take place at the general meeting on Wednesday, June 5.



Glora Wysner Circle Program ~ Janet Jennings

Trish Rankin presented an interactive and topical program on the importance of water. She began by having the group recall stories in the Bible where water is involved. Suggested, among many others, were Noah's Ark, Moses in the bulrushes, the parting of the Red Sea, the baptism of Jesus, Jesus walking on water, changing water into wine, and the woman at the well. We discussed the symbolism of water in the Bible. From there she led us to consider modern issues of global water shortages and pollution. One startling statistic was that almost a billion people on the planet are without access to clean water. At the end of the program Trish challenged the group to contribute \$30, which we did, which she will forward to an organization that digs wells in Africa.



Trish Rankin leading the program on water.



Marna's lemon meringue pie!

Following the program we all enjoyed fellowship around the table as we ate Marna's delicious lemon meringue pie along with hot tea, and, of course, water. Afterward we walked outside to admire Trish's fairy garden and the spring flowers in bloom.



Alice Bark checking out the fairy garden



Elsie Spurgeon, Marna Burwell, Marge Winkle, Lee Dunlop and Shirley Workman looking for fairies.



Lee Dunlop during the water program



Trish Rankin pointing out a highlight to Marna and Marge

~pics by Janet Jennings



**East Ohio Conference United Methodist Women
2013 Mission U**

(previously called School of Christian Mission)

New Site: www.eocumw.com

**Mount Union One-Day Sampler July 19th
Mount Union Three-Day Event July 19th - 21st**

**Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly
2013 Spiritual Growth Study**

This study offers tools to deepen spiritual identity, engagement in community and involvement in mission, looking at the sacramental understandings of baptism and communion and lifting up models of response to God’s call. Stories of call and response are shared from a wide array of persons from different walks of life.

Study Leader: Rev. Karen Cook

**The Roma of Europe
2013-2014 Geographic Mission Study**

This book will introduce you to the Roma, with an emphasis on Eastern Europe. You will discover their history up to and including the twentieth century. You can look into the ways they are treated in contemporary European culture. You will also be able to learn about their lifestyle and spirituality, and investigate ways the church and other organizations are working alongside the Roma.

Study Leaders: Rev. Nathan Howe and Mrs. Karen Henke Zotta

**Poverty
2012-2013 Mission Study**

Participants in the study will engage in deepening their understanding of the realities of poverty and be invited to commit to solidarity with the poor through accompaniment and advocacy.

Our Christian faith invites us to become agents of God’s compassion and healing in a wounded world. Poverty is a human rights issue with grave impact on women and children. This mission study on poverty is designed to help participants recognize and claim for themselves the connections between Scripture, church tradition, compassion for the poor, social outreach and social justice.

Biblical passages remind Christians of their responsibility for poverty. The Wesleyan movement embraced this concern by creating community centers where people could access education, medical care or employment, and members of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations have continued this heritage and responded to the poor where they exist.

Study Leader: Rev. Benita Rollins

More information posted on the UMW bulletin board outside upstairs parlor.



Excerpt from Response Magazine—April 2013 Issue

Sager Brown Hits the Road

“On a wall over the work tables a sign quoted Matthew 5:16: “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.”

Florida Gales, who manages the sewing room at Sager Brown Depot, sews supplies for disaster relief kits in Baldwin, La.

The Sager Brown depot operated by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in Baldwin, La., is best known as a place where thousands of volunteers spend a week or two each year packing relief supplies for disaster victims. So why was Sager Brown volunteer Gloria Lobnitz wielding a crowbar against the rotted floor of an old house trailer in the nearby town of Franklin?

The answer, said Kathy Kraiza, executive director of UMCOR Relief Supplies, is simple: “We live here. So we don’t feel like we can just serve outside of this local community. Our staff is from here, and so we want to be involved with ministries in this local area.” Sager Brown’s volunteers get a chance not only to pack relief supplies but to repair storm-damaged homes and fill other roles in the local community.

“I think I was a frustrated construction person ever since I was a child,” said Ms. Lobnitz, whose first career was as a nurse. “I grew up in the era when girls did girl things and boys did boy things, and they wouldn’t even let me take high school shop. So now I think I’m kind of getting back at them,” she laughed.

The trailer Ms. Lobnitz was repairing belonged to an elderly man. “They were about falling through the floor,” she said. “They had three or four layers of rugs on it just supporting it, and that’s about all.” Matt Wiemeyer, a long-term volunteer from York, Pa., who supervises volunteers doing home repairs in the community, said that’s a very common problem. “Almost every job that we do is either a ceiling leak or floor damage based on that leak.”

Ms. Lobnitz was working with other volunteers from First United Methodist Church in Orlando, Fla. They ripped out the rotted flooring, replaced the floor joists and then laid down a new, solid floor that won’t need the dubious support of multiple rugs. “[The work] is a great privilege, a ministry that the Lord’s called me to,” she said.

That many homes need repair is not surprising in an area regularly hit by storms that have names. What makes it worse is the poverty of rural southern Louisiana.

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Sager Brown Hits the Road (continued from page 4)

Mary Ellen Szuwalski sees those needs in her home community. She talked about it while working at a sewing machine putting hems on baby blankets to go into birthing kits at the Sager Brown Depot.

Ms. Szuwalski is a member of First United Methodist in Richardson, Texas, a Dallas suburb. She and four others from the Rejoice Circle of United Methodist Women spent a week volunteering at Sager Brown.

South Dallas is an impoverished community with many Hispanic immigrant workers, some with working papers, some without, Ms. Szuwalski said. Many of these immigrants have jobs, lawn care for example, but the jobs don't pay a living wage so there is also a lot of homelessness. "We see children who have no school supplies, no shoes, no winter coats," she said.

First United Methodist Church of Richardson is "mission-minded," whether that is overseas, a day's drive away at Sager Brown or in the Dallas community, she said. "It's a big thing that we contribute outside the church." Other members of the Rejoice Circle were hard at work in Sager Brown's huge warehouse. Volunteers packing disaster relief supplies surrounded several tables just inside the front door. Some of them wore t-shirts that read, "What Happens at Sager Brown Does Not Stay at Sager Brown." At the end of October 2012, no one could deny the importance of their work. Hurricane Sandy was just hitting the East Coast, and volunteers at several of the tables were packing health kits that were going to that area. The health kits include a towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, adhesive bandages and other supplies.

Among the other relief supplies processed by Sager Brown volunteers are layette kits with diapers, shirts, wash cloths and blankets; sewing kits with three yards of fabric, scissors, needles, thread and buttons; school kits with scissors, paper, pencils, erasers, crayons, ruler; and five-gallon cleaning buckets packed with detergent, dish soap, insect repellent, a scrub brush, sponges, scouring pads, clothesline, trash bags, gloves and more. Except for the cleaning buckets made for domestic use, the kits are distributed all over the world.

On a wall over the work tables a sign quoted Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven."

Sager Brown dates back to shortly after the Civil War. It was at one time an orphanage and a school for African-American children. The Woman's Home Missionary Society, a United Methodist Women predecessor, operated the school until 1978. Fourteen years later, UMCOR used the then-vacant property as the center of its relief operations after Hurricane Andrew hit Florida and Louisiana. A few years later, UMCOR made the relief depot permanent.

Local volunteers often come for a day, and many of these are from United Methodist Women's groups. Each year more than 3,000 out-of-state volunteers sign up for either short-term or longer tours of duty at Sager Brown. Typically groups or individuals come from churches around the South or Midwest for a week, sometimes two. Volunteers stay in plain but comfortable dormitory rooms on the 23-acre campus overlooking Bayou Teche.



Longer-term volunteers are critical to the smooth functioning of Sager Brown. One of these is Shirley Kunzman, a retired fifth grade teacher from Douds, Iowa. Since 2000, she and her husband, Charlie, have volunteered three months a year at Sager Brown. She is the hostess at the volunteers' dormitory, welcoming guests when they arrive and giving guided tours of the campus. "I didn't want to take a cruise!" Ms. Kunzman laughed, explaining why she keeps coming back to Sager Brown. "We came here soon after we retired, and I just felt that this is a place where we can do more good for more people than other places that we might be able to go."

Ms. Kunzman also runs the small gift shop on campus. In the dining room one day, as volunteers and staff held hands for prayer before the noon meal, she talked about the "prosperity candles" for sale at the gift shop. The candles are made by Burmese women who have come to the United States to make new lives after living in refugee camps. UMCOR partners with the Prosperity Candle company to distribute the candles, benefitting both the refugees and UMCOR's World Hunger/Poverty program. In this way, both the makers and the purchasers of the candles can follow the advice to "let your light shine."

**Jim West is an editorial photographer based in Detroit, Mich., and a frequent contributor to [Response](#)*

Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter

Gay Street United Methodist Church
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Mount Vernon, OH
43050-3287

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Witness
Of
Women

Deadline for the next issue is:
May 23, 2013

Dates for your Calendar

Wednesday, May 8:

9:30 a.m. Dorcas Circle at Marietta Van Fossen's home
12 Noon Sarah Circle at the church in the green parlor
1:30 p.m. Glora Wysner Circle at Marge Winkle's home

July 19: One Day Event School of Christian Mission
now called Mission U

July 19 – 21: Three Day School of Christian Mission
now called Mission U

September 21: Fall District meeting at Danville UMC

October 1 & 2: Fall Rummage/Bake sale

Our church will be hosting the Annual
Celebration on Friday, October 25 and Saturday,
October 26, 2013.



Sarah Circle meeting at noon time at the church.
Colleen Hicks (hidden), Carolyn Allar, Nancy Davis,
Ruth Hubbell, Janet Rehling & Norma Siekkinen

