

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



Twig-benders By Cynthia Rives From the October 2011 Issue *Response*

A childhood dream for Christian service is realized in United Methodist Women.

I am a Twig, and I was raised by a Twig-bender.

My mother was a member of the Woman's Society of Christian Service circle at Center Street United Methodist Church in Tucumcari, N.M., that called itself Twig-benders, a reference to the saying, "As the twig is bent, so shall the tree grow." As the name suggests, members took seriously their roles as mothers. I can testify to their success, because I was thoroughly "bent" toward a life of service in Christ through the United Methodist Women.

When I was a little girl I knew I was going to be a missionary after attending a study in my local church. While the adults studied in the fellowship hall, the children went to a Sunday school room for class. I must have heard the mission story, but the only thing I really remember about the study was getting to eat rice with chopsticks. Rice and chopsticks were all it took; I was going to be a missionary!

It took me about 40 years to realize I had actually made it: I really am a missionary. I might not work in China like the missionary I heard about as a girl, but I am a missionary through my work with United Methodist Women. I share the love of God with people around the world. My Pledge to Mission — the basic channel of United Methodist Women's Mission Giving — and enchilada dinners and potato luncheons to raise funds for mission; organizing conference trips to Sager Brown and college unit's trips to orphanages in Mexico; joining hurricane recovery work on the Gulf; and the monthly birthday party program for children after school are all on my "missionary vitae."

United Methodist Women members are women in mission. United Methodist Women mission studies are very important in my family. Though my mother never graduated from college, when asked about her education she would say she got her degree through United Methodist Women. And the wonderful thing is she never stopped studying and learning. By the time she died I think she had earned the equivalent of a doctorate or two!

I learned early in my life that United Methodist Women is for all women. My mother, a flamboyant, free spirit from Wisconsin, and my grandmother, a straight-laced librarian from a tiny town in the Texas Panhandle, were both in the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Those two women couldn't have been more different, but they were together in mission.

I vividly remember standing beside the open casket following my grandmother's funeral watching my mother reach in and remove the Special Membership Recognition Pin from grandmother's dress. Mother turned to me, handed me the pin and said, "We aren't going to bury this pin!" I have always treasured that pin, but that moment was about much more than a pin. That was a life-changing moment for me because I felt God calling me to do what I could to help strengthen and grow United Methodist Women. I've been working on that ever since.

I love United Methodist Women because of twig-bending, chopsticks, pins and more, but especially because it helps me truly practice my faith. United Methodist Women challenges me like nothing else in my life to be more than a nominal Christian. So I'll continue to be a United Methodist Women member because as I see it, as long as there are women, children and youth who need help; women who need a creative, supportive fellowship; and injustices in the world that need to be righted, we need United Methodist Women.

Cynthia Rives is president of Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women. From the Response magazine and can be found on the UMW website: <http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umw/response/>

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UMW Executive Committee

- Catherine Seward co-leader
392-3496
- Carolyn Allar co-leader
507-9825
- Linny 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 Fall-All-Circle General Meeting & Luncheon

~Linny McNeill

The United Methodist Women Fall-All-Circle General meeting and covered dish luncheon took place Wednesday, October 5 with the program given by Perry C. Brokaw. He spoke on three trips he has taken for missions and offered a photo slide presentation.

On the first trip in 1996 to Kursk, Russia, Perry served as a chaperone for East Ohio students at a Peace Camp. Their group interacted with about 150 Russian middle school students at the camp.

The second trip was to Bolivia, South America in 2006 during the summer with the "Teach Um" mission. The members of Teach Um shared teaching duties with local teachers, sometimes for those who just didn't show up! Occasionally, Perry and his colleagues had to teach a class of sixty students, age third grade through high school, and on a moments notice! This trip was with a group from East Ohio, mostly teachers and some workers also who mainly worked on the local sewer system. The Methodist Church has been in Bolivia now for 105 years.

Perry's third trip was the summer of 2009, to Ekaterinburg, Russia with the "VIM" - Volunteers in Mission. They visited a Methodist church in Euraisa and

a Methodist seminary in Moscow. This was after the Russian people gained their first election. Perry said that now that the former Soviet Union was defunct, the people are much more willing to volunteer to help others in need, not fearing repercussions. They stayed in Ekaterinburg and attended the only United Methodist Church in Ekaterinburg, a city of six million people. He related that their 26-hour train ride to



Pastor Denise, Mary, Kathleen and Jason



Perry Brokaw, Guest Speaker & Linny McNeill

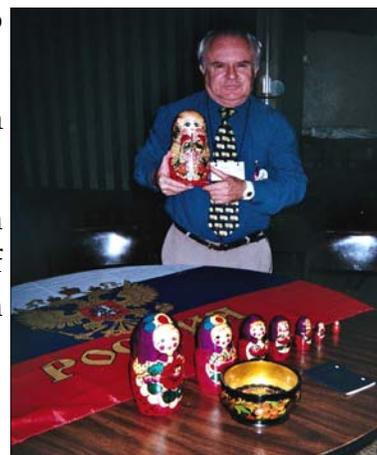


Carolyn Allar & her decorations

Moscow was like a summer version of Dr. Zhivago!

Perry has also traveled on previous study/mission trips to Northern Ireland in 1981-82 and to Turkey in 1987-88.

Displayed at the luncheon were artifacts from Perry's souvenirs; a Russian flag and a "Mauska" doll which is actually many dolls in one, of increasingly smaller size, one inside the other. Also on display were a Bolivian flag and two types of Bolivian flutes.



Perry & his Mauska doll

~pics by Linny McNeill

UMW Fall General Meeting ~Linnny McNeill

The United Methodist Women Fall General Meeting followed the program. Carolyn Allar presented the difficulties the UMW Executive Board has had filling the vacancies for 2012. We need to fill all the offices for UMW: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Trish Rankin has volunteered to fill the Books and Resources position.

Janet Rehling volunteered to announce at the November Chapel service about the UMW December UMW General Meeting and luncheon program. Linnny McNeill volunteered to do the same for the sanctuary service. Also the suggestion was made to have the three Circles' callers remind the members of the December General Meeting/Program and to bring a covered dish; and to continue calling for other UMW events.

Other actions voted on by UMW:

- ◆ Pay \$50 each for UMW program speakers for their mission causes
- ◆ Pay \$500 each for Christmas to four local agencies: New Hope, New Directions, Hospice and Children's Connection
- ◆ Pay \$5,000 to the Community Assistance Fund.

Reminder Dates:

- ◆ October 28 & 29 East Ohio UMW Annual Celebration – Youngstown, Ohio at Churchill United Methodist Church
- ◆ December 7 – All Circle Christmas Luncheon and Program by Mary Blencowe



*Scenes from
the
Fall
Luncheon*



~pics by Linnny McNeill

Dorcas Circle News ~Catherine Seward

Dorcas Circle met October 12 at the home of Virginia Kline on a very rainy morning with eight members present. The group was greeted by the aroma of cinnamon as we opened the door. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

The dates for the 2012 rummage sales were discussed and everyone was reminded of our UMW Christmas luncheon on December 7. All were urged to come and share the fellowship even if you can't carry a dish to pass. The circle's calendar for 2012 was filled out and ready for the program book.

Catherine Seward gave the program on The World Day of Prayer. She gave the history of it's origin and how the participation has increased over the years. Each year a different country is highlighted. For 2011 Haiti was emphasized with it's need for rebuilding after the January 2011 earthquake. The meeting was closed by the group repeating The Lord's Prayer.

The November 9 meeting will be with Barbara Jones.

Executive Board Meeting Highlights ~Peg McCracken

- Rummage and Bake Sales for 2012 will be: May 2 & 3 and September 5 & 6.
- Cheer Baskets will be handled by the Congregational Care Team, with all expenditures reimbursed by the UMW.
- There will be a Memory Program and special recognition at the December 7 Christmas Luncheon.
- With additional donations, we now have a total of \$1,600 for our Fall Rummage and Bake Sale. That makes \$3,400 the sales have earned in 2011!! Yea! All monies received go towards Mission work/projects.

~pics by Linny McNeill & Janet Jennings



Scenes from Glora Wysner Circle Meeting

Highlights from the Glora Wysner Circle Meeting

~Janet Jennings

Twelve members of the Glora Wysner circle met at the home of Shirley Workman on New Gambier Road at 1:30 Wednesday, October 11. Present besides the hostess were Linny McNeill, Alta Smith, Elsie Spurgeon, Janet Jennings, Helen Connell, Cindy Harper, Lee Dunlop, Bonnie Magaw, Maurine Scott, Carol Topping, and Trish Rankin.



Maurine Scott

Maurine Scott, wearing an authentic and attractive Israeli Arab woman's dress, had planned the program based on the book *I Shall Not Hate* by a medical doctor named Izzeldin Abuelaish. Often referred to as "the Gaza Doctor" in foreign media, Dr. Abuelaish has dedicated his life to peace in the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Of course all the members of the circle are well aware that Maurine's daughter, Marti, featured speaker at the recent Three Rivers District UMW meeting, has also been working for peace in Israel.

Maurine had asked Lee Dunlop to summarize Dr. Abuelaish's book. Her review was interspersed with short passages read by five other circle members highlighting early influences on this man, who was raised in poverty in a refugee camp but managed to become educated. We learned that in 2009, during an Israeli incursion into Gaza, the doctor's three daughters, Bissan, Mayar, and Aya, and a niece were killed. In spite of this, his personal doctrine is that hate is not a response to war and violence. Rather,

open communication, understanding and compassion are the tools to bridge the divide between Israeli and Palestinian interests. "All can live in harmony," he says. "And all can reach their full potentials spiritually, emotionally, physically and intellectually." Today Dr. Abuelaish lives in Toronto, Canada. His web site is www.daughtersforlife.com)

In other news, Marna Burwell has agreed to do the Agape funeral meals for one year. The date to assemble the Christmas Cheer baskets is Tuesday, December 13 and a sheet was passed around for circle members to volunteer to bake cookies and candy. This year we are working cooperatively with the Congregational Care Team on this project. That is why the baskets are being assembled on a Tuesday rather than later in the week as had been done previously. The three circle chairs who have been acting as UMW President are looking for volunteers to fill all regular UMW offices. They will continue to be on the Executive Board, but as representatives of their circles, not as an executive team.



Alta Smith, Trish Rankin, Janet Jennings

Linny passed around sign-up sheets for hostesses and program leaders for 2012. As of now we meet March through December, but there was some discussion about whether or not to continue our practice of not meeting in January and February. No change is planned at this time, so we will not meet in the winter.



Shirley Workman's delicious desserts

The East Ohio Conference UMW meeting is at Churchill UMC in Youngstown the weekend of October 28-29. Reservations are due by Oct. 15. Trish Rankin and Linny McNeill plan to go.

Our hostess served delicious pound cake topped with lemon whip and fresh fruit and beverages which we enjoyed in fellowship around the table.

The next meeting will be at Bonnie Magaw's, and Cindy Harper will have the program.

~pics by Linny McNeill & Janet Jennings

Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter

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Deadline for the next issue is:
November 18, 2011

Dates to Remember

Circle Meetings

November 9 – 9:30 a.m. Dorcas Circle meeting at Barbara Jones
November 9 – 1:30 p.m. at Bonnie Magaw's home
November 16 – 7 p.m. Sarah Circle at the church



Dates for your Calendar

Oct. 28-29 Conference UMW meeting at Churchill UMC
Dec. 7 UMW Christmas Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
Dec 13 Assemble and deliver Cheer Baskets

Dr Maxine Scott
was the pianist
at the Three
Rivers District
UMW meeting at
Roscoe UMC.

~pic by Linny
McNeill

