

November 2012
Volume 5, Issue 10

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



Do You Feel Called?

Are you one of God's Servants? Do you feel him calling you to serve as a leader /co-leaders of the Agape Patri meals? Or is he calling you to serve as a leader/co-leader of the Rummage/Bake Sale? These are great opportunities to show Christian hospitality and missional outreach. Contact Marna Burwell if you are interested in finding out more information about either of these opportunities. Also, Maurine Scott would like to find successor to head up the UMCOR Book Bag Project. Please contact her if you are interested at 740-392-8896. An added note: **14,000 Book Bags have been made to date!!!**



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UMW Executive Committee

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507-9825 Vice-President
- Janet Jennings
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- Marjorie Winkle
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Join us on Wednesday, December 5 for our 11:30 a.m. Annual Christmas Luncheon and General meeting. Executive Board will meet prior at 10 a.m. Bring a dish to share if able.



The History of Our Sarah Circle

~Janet Rehling



October Sarah Circle meeting: L-R sitting: Norma Siekkinen, Janet Rehling, Colleen Hicks, Ruth Hubbell L-R standing: Carolyn Allar and Mildred Trowbridge

Coming from a long time idea I had for younger working women of the church, **Sarah Circle** was born with help from Sue Harwell who I phoned at 10:30 one night from my bed, asking for her assistance and her secretarial talents! She graciously committed and we were off and running!

I knew UMW circles were dwindling from several to a few and we were needed. UMW needed us and we needed fellowship with other women within our church. I phoned all the women who seemed to be “possibles” and set a time to meet in the red parlors and discuss the possibility. Being well received, Sarah Circle was organized on February 15, 1989 with Charter Membership of 23 women on March 15, 1989. Next February 2013, we will begin twenty four years of continuous service in the UMW.

Several women joined and many have come and gone over the years, but with several determined

and dedicated women and new joiners, we continue to exist. Four charter members remain: Carolyn Allar, Nancy Davis, Colleen Hicks, and Janet Rehling.

Interest in UMW has changed dramatically over the years and currently, the younger women seem to have limited interest in becoming involved. They seem happier in other small groups of the church and we know change can sometimes be good.

However, we keep praying for women to feel the call to UMW as today we have just three circles.

Our circle was named for the Biblical woman, Sarah.

Sarah-

Her period was in the 19th or 20th century B.C. Sarah & Abraham were born and married in UR. In those days, women were of little importance until they gave their husband a son. Sarah was barren. Sarah’s and Abraham’s story covers more space in the Book of Genesis than does the entire human race from The Creation down to their time. (Genesis chapters 11 through 23.) Sara’s life was one of constant and continuous faith in God’s promise and in her husband’s decisions. Where Abraham went, she followed, as a partner and a strong influence. Peter states in a couple of instances in the Bible, she even called Abraham “My Lord”.



The departure from their native land, the only place either had ever known did not divide them in love or purpose. Moving was hard and no fun, especially when the moving van was a camel or a donkey. Sarah was not a weak, spineless, overly dependent, or an empty headed woman. She was beautiful, had a cultured upbringing, was educated, charming and gracious.

Her parents named her Sarai, meaning Princess. God changed her name to Sarah, thus meaning “The Mother of Nations”. God’s will for her life was true Biblical submission, which she had shown. God changed Abram’s name to Abraham. God promised him to be “The Founder of the House of Israel.” When they reached Haran, Abraham’s father, Terah, refused to leave and travel further. He was an idol worshiper, so the wait until Terah’s death waylaid God’s plans for Abraham and Sarah by several years.

Continued on page 3

The History of Our Sarah Circle (continued from page 2)

Abraham was 75 years old when they finally could set out for Canaan, the Promised Land. When they reached Canaan, there was a famine. Abraham decided to flee to Egypt. Here, he knew the Pharaoh would want Sarah for her beauty and would certainly kill Abraham to get her so he devised a plot, saying they were brother and sister, not husband and wife. Abraham received many animals and servants for Sarah's sake. (In reality, they really were half brother and sister). God did not like Abraham's lying as a lie was a sin, and not accepted by God. True to His protection, though, God sent plagues upon the House of Pharaoh until he released Sarah back to Abraham.

When she still could not conceive, Sarah gave her maid, Hagar, to Abraham as a concubine. Later, Ishmael was born of their union when Abraham was 86 years old. From then on Hagar treated Sarah as a lowlier person and was usually nasty to her.

Three men were sent by God to visit Abraham and to tell him God promised a son, to be named Isaac. He would be born to him and Sarah in a year. Sarah laughed as they were so old and God's promise of a son had never happened for them. In a year when Abraham was 100 and Sarah 90, she gave birth to Isaac. She tenderly nursed, loved and raised him into a God loving man.

The biggest test of their love of God came when God told Abraham he must make a sacrifice of Isaac and to build an altar, lay Isaac on the altar, take a knife and kill him. It is said Sarah knew of this plan and agonized but helped them pack and leave knowing she might never see her long awaited son again. When the altar was built and Abraham, with deep sadness, placed Isaac upon the altar prepared to kill him, God substituted a sacrificial lamb in Isaac's place. Years later, when Isaac and Ishmael were teen agers, Sarah asked Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away because Ishmael seemed to be a worshipper of Idols and, being the first born son, planned to inherit doubly from Abraham someday, cutting Isaac out. This plan received God's approval and Abraham sent them away. When Sarah was 127 years old, she died in Kiryat, Arba what is now Hebron and Abraham bought the Cave of Machpelah and buried her there.

Sarah showed love and faith in her God and in her husband all of her life. Sarah was strong and faced challenges with faith and dignity. Therefore we, as Sarah's followers show that same strength, faith, and endurance in God and thus, our little UMW Sarah Circle, prayerfully, will thrive into many more productive years. All former members and all interested women are encouraged to come check us out. You will be welcomed. Next meeting: **Wednesday, November 14, 12 Noon**, in the downstairs parlor. Hope to see you there!



Sarah Circle members raise their glasses in thanksgiving as they begin their October meeting with a light lunch.

Notes of Thanks

Norma, Peg and Sue want to thank our anonymous donor for his/her generous donation to THE CLOSET. It is much appreciated and we'll put it to good use.

We want to thank Dr. Rodney Beckett and his staff for the toothbrushes and toothpaste donated for The Closet. ~Norma Siekkinen, Peg McCracken, Sue Baker



Norma Siekkinen and Peg McCracken at the October quarterly luncheon.

~pic by Linny McNeill

Hidden Talents - Becky Stewart

~Linnay McNeill



Sewing Becky

Most of you know that Becky Stewart, a self-proclaimed “people person”, would prefer to remain behind the scenes and do the bulk of her ministry for the church in the background. So it really took some convincing to make her realize that her inspiration to others was well worth sharing!

Becky got her strong work ethic from both her parents, having grown up on a dairy farm near Canal Fulton, Ohio. She always milked cows and helped her dad with chores before and after school until she went off to college. She inherited her nurturing nature from her mother, who was a girl scout leader, 4-H adviser, taught Sunday school, and was an active UMW member. (Her mother is now 85, but still goes to UMW circle when she gets a ride!) She always took Becky and her two younger brothers to church-no questions! Due to her mother's influence, Becky was later a girl scout leader also, and became devoted to church activities at Gay Street Methodist Church.



**Becky & Cliff
“Young Love”**

Becky met Cliff through her brother, who went to high school with him. While Cliff was serving in the Air Force in Japan, Becky attended and graduated from the Akron School of Practical Nursing, earning her LPN. One time when Cliff came home on leave, he decided that Becky was “the one”, so they got engaged, and later married when Cliff was on another leave, in November 1970. They honeymooned in San Francisco, then took off to Japan for Cliff's service for 14 months. They lived on an Army base north of Tokyo. While in Japan, they climbed Mount Fuji, and Becky recalls visiting a kimono factory, a winery, a wooden products factory, and the American Embassy, among many other places. They found



Bride Becky

the language barrier not to be too severe because the Japanese were eager to try out their English! While Cliff did service duty, Becky amused herself by walking, sightseeing, and taking tours almost weekly. They got to see a lot of the Japanese countryside. They spent the last year of Cliff's service in Sunnyvale, California, and then they moved back to Canal Fulton. Cliff went to the University of Akron on the GI bill, and Becky did nursing work at Barberton Citizen's Hospital. Daughter Carrie was born in February 1974.



**Standing on the right:
Nurse Becky, L.P.N.**

In 1975, Cliff graduated and got his first big job in California with his electronics degree. He installed and maintained CAT scanners for six months. By this time, Carrie was two years old and they decided it was too far away from home and family. However, Cliff was fortunate to be able to transfer to Columbus for work on CAT scanners at Riverside Hospital, while Becky did nursing there also. Son Curt was born in October 1976, and Becky worked part time at Riverside in nursing until Cliff changed jobs again back to Canal Fulton. They lived in a farmhouse they helped Becky's parents renovate near their farm.



Bell Ringer Becky

Continued on page 5

Hidden Talents ~ Becky Stewart (continued from page 4)



May 1980 the Stewarts moved to their current home outside Mount Vernon when Cliff started work at Cooper's (now Rolls Royce). Becky, having been raised Methodist, was attracted to our beautiful church building at Gay Street, and the rest is history! Her volunteer efforts are many. She drove the church van on Sundays for ten years, has driven UMW women to Lakeside in the van the past four years, regularly helps in Sunday School, participates in our sewing group the "Piece Corps," is active in UMW, and plays in the Bell Choir. In the 1980's, Becky was Gay Street's UMW president for four years, Mount Vernon District UMW president for four years, and was on the East Ohio Conference nomination committee for four years. One of her duties as District UMW president was to check in the ministers and their delegates at Lakeside, and to attend the conference. In the 1990's Becky held the office of Assistant Dean for the School of Christian Mission.



Cliff & Becky Stewart with their family.



Zia, Carrie, Becky, Cliff, Curt & Heather

Also, once their kids were in school, Becky went back to college at Ohio State University, to finish her degree in Human Ecology (formerly Home Economics), and graduated Spring Quarter 1990.

Aren't we lucky here at Gay Street that Cliff decided to accept work here? Becky, you truly do inspire so many of us with the ministries you do!



Dorcas Circle

October meeting:

Sitting I-r: Carol Gore, Marietta Van Fossen, Bonnie Magaw

Standing I-r: Rosa Lee Hogg, Garnette Yanchek

The next Dorcas Circle meeting—November 14, 9:30 a.m. will be at Carol Gore's home (34 Longitude Drive., Mt. Vernon). Come join us!



L-R: Rosa Lee Hogg and Barbara Jones



~pics by Bonnie Magaw

Gloria Wynser Circle Highlights

~Janet Jennings



Lee Dunlop hosted the Gloria Wynser Circle meeting in her home on Wednesday, October 10, 2012. Present in addition to Lee were Linny McNeill, Shirley Workman, Elsie Spurgeon, Alta Smith, Janet Jennings, Helen Connell, Marge Winkle and Maurine Scott.

Alta Smith shared an article from the October issue of Response magazine called "The Church Speaks on Poverty." Helen Connell presented a thoughtful program based on Leslie D. Weatherhead's classic theological book "The Will of God." This book helped millions of Christians begin to understand the difference between God's will and man's will. Helen used it when she taught a large group of junior high youth. Discussion followed and Helen closed with prayer.



Pics from the October Luncheon & General Meeting



Pics by Linny McNeill



Decorations by Carolyn Allar



U.M. W. Fall Meeting Program Flat Rock Homes Care Center

~Linn McNeill

Our program speaker for the UMW Fall Meeting was Rev. Robert Remington, VP for development of Flat Rock Care Center in Flat Rock, Ohio, northeast of Tiffin. It is a facility for individuals with special needs and Robert began his talk by explaining the history of this mission. After the Civil War, Tiffin was the last stop on the railroad line for the orphan trains coming from urban areas in the east. Many war widows could not afford to raise their families and made the heartbreaking decision to place them on westbound trains where they might be adopted by pioneer families in what is now western Pennsylvania and Ohio. The trains also carried children who became orphaned when their families were wiped out by the dreadful Typhoid epidemic. When the trains reached the end of the line in Tiffin, Ohio, not all the children had been adopted. These children were thousands of miles away from home with no place to go. Caring and devout Christian laity founded the Ebenezer Orphan Home in 1867. Several years later the children were moved to the farming community of Flat Rock, where land had been donated to establish a farm. For the children and staff, for nearly a century, the farm provided the necessary crops, milk, and meat. This was quite a feat considering more than 300 children lived at Flat Rock during the depression.

As times changed, so did society's approach to caring for children in need. In the 1970's orphanages were replaced with group homes and foster care. By the 1980's, Flat Rock's care evolved into serving children and adults with mental retardation, development disabilities, and behavioral issues. Their MRDD diagnosis is compounded with one or several other problems: autism, aggressive behavior, Aspergers syndrome, Down's syndrome, PICA (eating non-food substances), Terret's syndrome (uncontrollable disruptive outbursts), Cholera (flailing their arms around or kicking), and others. Many of the behavioral issues are due to society's lack of understanding which affects the resident's actions when they are out in public interacting with mainstream folks, and get stared at or ridiculed, etc.

"The mission of Flat Rock Homes is to provide outstanding services which transforms lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and those with critical needs through a dedication of caring and excellence that demonstrates Christian values."



Rev. Robert Remington

Flat Rock Centers operates fifteen half-way houses in five counties. The residents currently are from eight years old to 81 years old. Many have direct support personnel who stay with them all the time providing on-on-one care. Some don't read, but understand pictures and can be trained to do many tasks, such as recycling, for example. They learn how to separate glass, metal, plastic, and paper.



The goal of the centers is to create a living environment that has everything they would have in a home, except with a lot of extra help for their individual situations, and to send some of them back to live with their families if possible, after working with them.

Flat Rock Homes, Flat Rock Care Centers and Community Services are independent not-for-profit organizations in covenant affiliation with the United Methodist Church. They do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, or nationality. They are an Eagle Accredited Organization, the only faith based accreditation in the United States. Volunteers run the facilities. Medicaid pays them, and reimburses the facilities. They raise money through donations and fundraisers. This leaves a "Gap" of expenses still needing to be covered. They received \$22,000 from our annual conference. Their yearly budget is \$600,000. After donations and fundraisers, the Gap was \$300,000.

This ministry has a link to Gay Street because Marge and Marshall Winkle are Flat Rock representative liaisons to our church.

Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter

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"Think Globally, Act Locally"

*W*itness
*O*f
*W*omen

Deadline for the next issue is:
November 21, 2012

Dates for your Calendar

Wednesday, November 14: 9:30 a.m. Dorcas Circle meets at Carol Gore's home at 34 Longitude Drive, Mount Vernon.

Wednesday, November 14: 1:30 p.m. Glora Wysner Circle meets at Trish Rankin's home. (Bring World Thank offerings.)

Wednesday, November 14: 12 Noon Sarah Circle will meet in the downstairs parlor.

Wednesday, December 5: 11:30 a.m. Christmas Luncheon and General Meeting, Executive meeting prior 10:00 a.m.

