

October 2009

Volume 2, Issue 10

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty, and all forms of human life.

~ John F. Kennedy

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*East Ohio UMW Annual Celebration
"Racial Justice, Poverty & Homelessness"*

-Trish Rankin

The Annual Meeting will be Friday-Saturday, October 9-10 at Sunbury United Methodist Church, 100 West Cherry Street, Sunbury. After the 6:15 p.m. registration time Friday evening, Dr. Gloria Brown will speak on Racial Justice. Gathering music on Saturday will begin at 9:15 a.m. and the day will include business and officer training. After lunch there will be a worship service with Stanya Greathouse as the speaker on poverty and homelessness. The communion service will be led by Bishop John Hopkins. The closing will be by 3:00 p.m. Since it is so close, let's go! Registration is \$15.

Registration forms are located on the UMW bulletin board outside the upstairs parlors.

- UMW Executive Committee**
- Peg McCracken
President, 397-2252
 - Janet Rehling
Vice Pres., 397-5017
 - Marietta Van Fossen
Secretary, 397-1133
 - Angie Richards
Treasurer, 392-7904
 - Norma Siekkinen
Ast. Treas., 397-4386

Don't Miss This Special Treat!

Fall U.M.W. District Meeting
Saturday, October 31, 9:00 a.m.
at Prairie Chapel U.M.C.
(east on Route 36, before Coshocton)

Our own Mary Blencowe will be the afternoon speaker, sharing about Bridging Ministries.

Registration forms will be available soon.
The theme for the day is "For All the Saints."

Everyone invited!

-Trish Rankin

Meet our Secretary ~ Marietta Van Fossen

- Jan L. Talbott

I don't know about you, but when I look at Marietta Van Fossen she exudes orneriness. I believe in most cases, your personality doesn't change too much from the way you were as a child. . . and this holds true for Marietta.

When she was only 13 months old, her Mom died from heart problems. So Marietta was raised by her Grandma until she was four years old.

According to Marietta, her Grandma never disciplined her. Her Grandma felt to compensate for losing her Mom at such a young age she just couldn't bring herself to discipline Marietta. . . even when Marietta decided to try her hand at smoking wheat in the upstairs bedroom. Her Grandma was taking potato peelings out for the hogs when she looked up and noticed smoke coming from the upstairs bedroom. Grandma let out a war-whoop that was heard far and wide. It brought the men in from the field and road workers up from their labor on a nearby bridge. They got Marietta out safely and put the fire out. Marietta's Dad felt she warranted a paddling, but her Grandma wouldn't hear of it. She was always into mischief. . . thanks to Grandma's easy handling.

Marietta always had a love of children. . . since she was just a big kid herself! While she was in college to become a school teacher, World War II started and so did a teacher shortage. She worked on getting certified so she could begin teaching during what would have been her junior year in college. At only nineteen she began her first year of teaching at the Bennington Liberty school in Appleton (between Utica & Johnstown). She taught third and fourth grade. The boys she said, always kept things interesting because of all the tomfoolery they could think up to get into! Never a dull moment when they were around and she liked it that way! (...see what her Grandma instilled in her!)



Marietta Van Fossen

With no car to traverse, she stayed with a nice couple that lived close by the school. Many times when she walked to the school house in the snow, folks couldn't see her over the drifts! It was while staying with this couple that she happened to meet a handsome young man that took a fancy to her. The nephew of the couple she was staying with had his aunt ask her if she liked watching football. Fortunately, for Leon Van Fossen, the answer was yes! Marietta loves watching football and Leon took her to an OSU football game. They had a good time, but poor Leon probably wondered what his chances were with this "shy" girl that was pretty much hugging onto the door handles opposite him on the trip home. He must have been a persistent one though. Before he shipped out overseas to serve time in the Infantry they became engaged. When he returned home on Memorial Day in 1946, it was a glorious day! In July of '46 they married and began a wonderful married life of sixty years together. Over the years they were blessed with four children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Back when Leon and Marietta moved to Mount Vernon, the Bumpus family were their neighbors. Marietta had three children with a fourth soon on the way. Rev. Taylor, from Gay Street UMC, would stop by to visit and would always bring gum for the children. The Van Fossen children thought he was just it and so they began attending Gay Street UMC back in the late 50's.

Marietta started back to teaching once her oldest daughter was considering college. After twenty-six years of teaching, one of the best things Marietta ever did was to retire at the same time as Leon. She and Leon could both enjoy the "state of retirement" together! She has never, ever regretted that decision. It was priceless!

Continued page 3

Marietta Van Fossen—continued from page 2

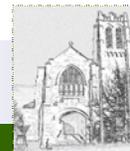
Marietta loved working with the ladies of the church on bazaars, bake sales, special suppers and mincemeat making. Barbara Jones and Lucille Bowden are two of the ladies that Marietta has enjoyed working with over the years. Some of the dear saints that Marietta also recalls working with were Freda Stull, Virginia Ward, Thelma Beach, Birdie Parker, Jane Parker, Mary Frary, Elizabeth Levering, Peg Kymer, Hazel McMillan, Margaret Ressler, Edna Ryan, Helen Sockman, Edna Wallace, Ruth Warman, Helen Warman, and Opal McMillan....*WOW!* (Women of Witness indeed!). What a bunch of hard-working women using their talents and gifts to spread God’s love and hope. If this is just a few names of

“the foundation” that the Gay Street United Methodist Women’s group was built on . . . what an outstanding base we have to continue to build on!

Marietta has enjoyed her mission work in the United Methodist Women as well as the fun and fellowship.

Marietta would like to invite all women of the church to join a UMW circle and find out what they have been missing. She is sure they won’t regret it.

P.S. And if you want to have an extra good time, hang around Marietta!



“Some of the dear saints that Marietta also recalls working with were Freda Stull, Virginia Ward, Thelma Beach, Birdie Parker, Jane Parker, Mary Frary, Elizabeth Levering, Peg Kymer, Hazel McMillan, Margaret Ressler, Edna Ryan, Helen Sockman, Edna Wallace, Ruth Warman, Helen Warman, and Opal McMillan. . .”



MISSION MOMENT

This month’s RESPONSE listed all the places in the world where United Methodist Women’s mission dollars are being spent. Are you aware that there are SEVEN places in Ohio? They are: Wesley Education Center for Children and Families, Cincinnati, Ohio; West Side Community House, Cleveland, Ohio; South Side Settlement, Columbus, Ohio; Wesley Community Center, Dayton, Ohio; Friendly Center, Toledo, Ohio; United Methodist Community Center-Warren Site, Warren, Ohio; UM Community Center, Youngstown, Ohio. Yea! United Methodist Women!



Rummage/Bake Sale

WOW! We raised \$1,431 for Missions at the Fall Rummage and Bake Sale!

The following leftover items were distributed as follows: Items of clothing and household goods were donated to: HopeNow (formerly FUFF), MVDC (Mount Vernon Developmental Center) Foster Grandparents, and gave shoe boxes to the Shoe Box Ministry. Bud vases were given to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church for tables at their Hot Meals (they decorate the tables with flowers, that they then give to the diners). Gave large vases to The Flower Basket. Tickets were passed out at our Hot Meals dinner the Friday before the Sale — for free bags of clothes at the Sale. As after all of our Sales, Frank Austin, from Utica, picked up what was left, and distributed to areas in Ohio and out of state. Peg McCracken says, “You can see just how many benefit from our Sale. Please thank all of the workers. We had so much help! And they all worked so hard. We had many, many donations. Thank you to all who donated food to the Bake sale, as well as to Mary and Frances Irvin for soup, sandwiches and beverages. It was so much appreciated! Norma (Siekkinen) and I would never have been able to handle it. We thank each and everyone. You all made this a successful mission!”



Faith, Hope, Love in Action - Assembly 2010

Thousands of women from across the globe will leave their homes and come together for the 18th Assembly of United Methodist Women, April 30-May 2, 2010, at the America's Center in St. Louis, Mo. Many will come a day early, April 29, to participate in the pre-conference "Mission Forward Symposium — Laywomen, Vocation and Calling," or the "Ubuntu Day of Service" in the St. Louis community.

The Assembly theme, "Faith, Hope, Love in Action," embodies the spirit of United Methodist Women, and helps to center our minds and hearts as we prepare to gather in 2010. As the vision statement for Assembly 2010 states, "United Methodist Women are disciples of Jesus Christ and called to share our belief in the promise of a new heaven and a new earth; our expectation of needs met for all; our sisterhood of grace and our embodiment of justice. It is through action that we find fulfillment of our faith, hope and love in the name of Jesus Christ."

Assembly 2010 will be a time for United Methodist Women members to celebrate, energize, educate and equip themselves for God's mission in God's world. The economic downturn continues to impact people in our communities and all over the world. These times call for grace and good judgment, caring and creative thinking, hope and helping hands. The worship, programs, workshops and panels being planned for Assembly are designed to help United Methodist Women members better serve one another, their communities and those around the world.

Be intentional as you make your plans to attend Assembly 2010. Prepare for Assembly 2010 with faith, seeking God's will for your time and talents. Prepare with hope, looking for new opportunities to be of service in God's world. Prepare with love, knowing the grace that flows through you is a blessing to others. Prepare for action, because as a member of United Methodist Women you live into the promised resurrection in the midst of challenge. Make plans now to attend the 18th Assembly of United Methodist Women, because you believe.

Inelda Z. González
President, Women's Division

"Assembly 2010 will be a time for United Methodist Women members to celebrate, energize, educate and equip themselves for God's mission in God's world. "

-Inelda Z. González



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION
ASSEMBLY 2010

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:
October 22, 2009

New United Methodist Women Handbook 2009-2012!

The 2009-2012 United Methodist Women Handbook is now available from the Mission Resource Center E-Store. A new design consolidates into a single volume Local and District Units, District, Finance, Constitution and Bylaws, and A Guide to Program Planning.

United
Methodist
Women

Women's Division
Mission Resource Center
800-305-9857

Order the 2009-2012 United Methodist Women Handbook (U.S. \$17.00)

**Don't
Miss Out**

Upcoming Circle Meetings for October:

October 14: Dorcas Circle at Marietta VanFossen's 9:30 a.m.
October 14: Glora Wysner Circle at Rosa Lee Hogg's 1:30 p.m.
October 21: Sarah Circle at the church 7:00 p.m.
Reminder—October is World Thank Offering Month
(If school is canceled or even delayed two hours then all meetings are canceled.)

