



INNER CIRCLES OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

United Methodist Women Newsletter

February 2010



A Note From UMW Co-Presidents Rebecca Paulsen and Jennica Smoke

Dates to Remember

Sarah Circle 7:00pm Room 213	
<u>Feb. Meeting</u>	02/22
<u>Mar. Meeting</u>	03/22
Mary Elizabeth Circle-1:00pm Chapel Hall	
<u>Feb. Meeting</u>	02/24
<u>Mar. Meeting</u>	03/24
Rachel Circle 9:00am Chapel Hall	
<u>Feb. Meeting</u>	02/25
<u>Mar. Meeting</u>	03/25
Ruth Circle 12:45pm Chapel Hall	
<u>Feb. Meeting</u>	02/25
<u>Mar. Meeting</u>	03/25
Miriam Circle 12:45pm Various Homes	
<u>Feb. Meeting</u>	02/25
<u>Mar. Meeting</u>	03/25

Dear UMW Sisters,

Did you know that in ancient times February was known as the month to celebrate the home hearth fire which represents the return of warmth to the earth? I don't know about you, but right around this time of year I am certainly ready for some warmth! Sometimes I just feel like hibernating until the spring. I was reading my Prevention magazine reflections and Ardath Rodale recommended a few ways to rekindle our inner spirit. She suggested one way to clear out the cobwebs was to cuddle with a new and challenging book. Ms Rodale states that books allow us to visit far-off places without ever leaving our homes. What better way to do that than to peruse the UMW book cart. There one can find a book from the four different reading categories and also complete the UMW reading program! Another suggestion was to gather warmth and creativity around us. We can do that by creating a special place in our home just for us to relax and center ourselves without distractions. She also suggests that we spend our February days reconnecting with family through photos, stories and sharing recipes.

United Methodist Women are constantly celebrating the "home hearth fire". Many women share their stories and photos through the Response Magazine. If you are not familiar with this magazine, please check it out at the UMW book cart. This magazine tells stories of women and children all around the world and helps us better understand how we accomplish our mission. I'm often inspired by these women that make a huge difference in their communities while working with very little resources.

United Methodist Women in our church are rather busy this February. We are hosting the District Officer Training at our church on Saturday, February 6th. On this morning we will be serving breakfast to 100+ women! This took a lot of planning and many hands to organize. Once again I am proud to be a part of a unit with such giving women. I would like to thank all those women who helped make this event a success.

We will also be gathering on February 11th at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall for a General Meeting which will include breakfast and a program from ChildServ. Free babysitting will be available for this meeting. We hope that you will come out for this event and help create the home hearth fire among your fellow sisters.

Peace, Rebecca

Mary Elizabeth Circle

Meets in Chapel Hall-4th Wednesday 1:00pm

At our Jan. 27th meeting we had 17 members and 2 new potential members--Betty Raap and Laverne Colver. We look forward to seeing them again. Rich and Sarah DeMink were our speakers and they talked about their exciting trip to Africa last summer. We used the great new video equipment in Fellowship Hall. Everyone really enjoyed the presentation. During our meeting we held our annual Pledge Service and collected for our spring project--Marcy-Newberry.

We needed volunteers to bring food items for the UMW Feb. 6th District meeting and to cover the P.W.P. table in February. All slots were filled quickly. Carolyn Christensen and Jean Remington were the co-hosts and served us a selection of wonderful pies.

Leanne Rolfe will be our speaker at the Feb. 24th meeting. She will talk about their recent trip to Columbia.

Circle Coordinator—Judy Bittikoffer



Ruth Circle

Meets in Chapel Hall- 4th Thursday 12:45 pm

The New Year started out great for Ruth Circle. There were 13 in attendance and we had a delicious cake and goodies provided by Caroline Bertolino and Shelly Davenport. The Pledge Service was given by Shelly, and we were given the opportunity to write out our pledge cards. There was sharing of "joyful stories" and acknowledgment of the "birthday girls" for the month. Also, there was quick response to volunteering for bringing food for the District Meeting. We have a great group!

Our February program will be given by Leanne Rolfe on our study of The Native Americans. The meeting is on February 25th, 12:45 in Chapel Hall. We are encouraged to bring other women we know via a valentine sentiment – Be my Valentine and Come to Ruth Circle.

Circle Coordinator—Leanne Rolfe



Rachel Circle

Meets in Chapel Hall- 4th Thursday 9:00 am

Rachel Circle had 11 woman in attendance at our January meeting. Two women announced their new businesses. Angela Loveless has started an organizing business called 'Actually Organized'. Pam Schettek has begun a dog walking service, 'Pam's Pampered Pets.' Congratulations and best of luck to both of them!

Rebecca Paulsen ran our Pledge drive and then Shannon Williams from Family Shelter Services spoke to us. We learned about how their shelters operate and the resale shops. Shannon gave us some direction on how we can help support their organization.

February's program is not planned yet, but Jennica Smoke will be sharing the ideas she got from Family Shelter Services.

Circle Coordinator– Heather Cerne

Miriam Circle

Meets at various homes- 4th Thursday 12:45pm

Sixteen members met at Laural Briggs home. A beautiful brick house on 61st Street. We had a delicious dessert in the addition part of her home—a sun room. Sunshine was all around us and plants galore. There was still plenty of room for us. Kay Haagh was the co-host.

The main action was Doris Dalluege collecting our pledges or handing them out. Also, our Bridge giving was taken. Of course everyone brought Haiti bags with the items that were listed in the itinerary. Connie Ogdon sent us the list. Towels were the one thing we goofed on. Gladly, Rev. Tom Ostrander took the bags and brought them to the church for us.

Fortunately, he and his wife Gayle, were our important people at the circle gathering. Tom spoke about the 23rd Psalm. Explaining many things about David and the verses meanings. It was very helpful and easy to understand him. He is an excellent speaker and we all enjoyed their good company. Also, thankful that he took the time from his busy schedule to be with us.

Co-Circle Coordinator— Jan Morey and Marge Froemke

Sarah Circle

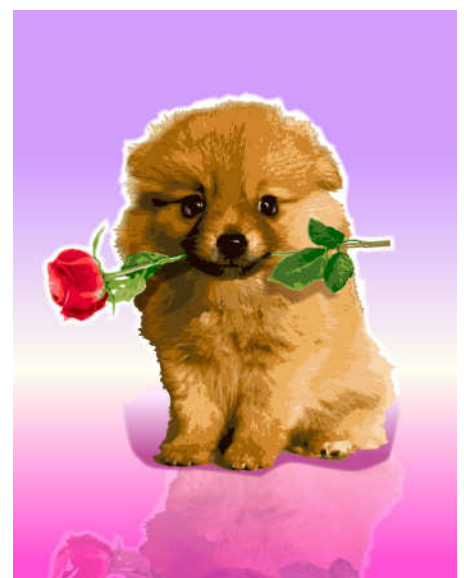
Meets in room 213-4th Monday 7:00pm

It was arctic outside but the 15 Sarah Circle members gathered in the cozy Adult Ed room to socialize while munching away on Linda Brif's homemade date bars. A guest, Dana Murphy, was also able to attend our circle meeting. Dana and her family joined the church this past spring and has taken on the task of becoming one our Onward Bound teachers. I applaud her jumping right in and taking on the challenge of spiritually teaching our adolescents. Welcome again, Dana.

It soon became time to settled in for Sharon Harmon's pledge program and to reaffirm our commitment of UMW's mission. The program was so much more than filling in a pledge card and collecting a monetary promise. We were asked to reflect on our "gifts of the spirit" and take time to list out personal strengths and weaknesses. We should keep in mind that our mindset of today are not absolutes and that personal growth is an important function of UMW. Each simple choice we make can begin the process of re-creating ourselves. While learning about ourselves in a supportive environment we can grow our faith and our commitment to Jesus Christ. United Methodist Women members grow in faith and understanding through prayer, Bible study, worship, reflection, interaction with others and active involvement in mission.

In February, we look forward to a program on the topic of time management by Carol Lysne. Carol has had a long history in DGFUMC and we welcome her back to share and inspire us all to keep our priorities.

Circle Coordinator— Cheri Madsen



Scripture Lesson

The Transfiguration

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

Luke 9:28-36

What is Native American Ministries Sunday?

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of the six church wide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. Native American Ministries Sunday nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

The Native American United Methodist Gathering in Tempe, Ariz., for instance, focuses on giving "children a spiritual message—and to help them maintain their culture. We try to give our children guidance and to be examples for them," the program coordinator explained. "As they become more involved in the church, their voices are heard."

"I want to be the best minister I can be," said the Rev. Chebon Kernell, a Native American seminary scholarship recipient. "The best way to do this is through theological education. My hope is for my children to know who they are as Native people, to hold core values and to know it's OK for them to be what God created them to be." Already Kernell has served as director of interpretation and programs for the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and as pastor of First American UMC, Norman, Okla. Pretty amazing for a young man who set out to become a lawyer!

Prayer Calendar Minute

"Ed and Jane are a married couple in their 60's who live close to Phillipsburg. They are retired and very active grandparents. What spare time they have is spent helping others. They help bring back meat we receive free from Schweitzer United Methodist Church each month. They also assisted in picking up the "Share the Fair" meat from the processor this summer. When our food pantry is low they provide what is missing. Angels come in many forms. We are blessed to have Ed and Jane in our community."

Sandra Sipes, church and community worker, Empowering Women, Phillipsburg, Mo.



Happy Birthday



February

March

Connie Ogdon
 Marge Froemke
 Angie White
 Joyce Clark
 Helen Davies
 Jan Morey

02/08
 02/09
 02/11
 02/13
 02/16
 02/27

Betty Hargreaves
 Jean Remington
 Sandra Pine
 Arlene McCoy
 Julie Stone
 Devra Dunham

03/01
 03/12
 03/19
 03/20
 03/28
 03/31



REFUNDS

“Maximum refund! Guaranteed!” This is the season of the Olympics, record snowfalls, and maximum refunds. Those who market tax software use this as their chief come-on. Oh, that we all had a refund coming!

I checked a big fat concordance, and the word refund does not appear in the Bible. Of course not. A tax refund is only the payback of what you’ve already overpaid. God goes way beyond that. The thief on the cross beside Jesus, the prodigal son, and the prostitute, had no refunds coming. They got far more. When your 1040 is filed I hope the bottom line is a refund. Regardless, God’s loving kindness is always your bottom line, your abundant blessing. No tax return required. Gratitude always appropriate.

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I to want thank you and all the women of your unit for your gracious hospitality at the Aurora District Meeting last Saturday!!!

It was a great morning together. All went very smoothly and we truly appreciate all of the work and time that went into it. Your church was a great facility for our needs. You are great cooks and very well organized. Please extend our thanks to all of your members.

If you have any suggestions for future meetings - anything that you think would have made your part easier or would have helped things work more smoothly - please pass them along to me. We are always looking for ways to do our work better.

Hope to see you again at the Spring meeting!

Peace,
 Cheryl
 District UMW Vice President

Ways & Means



Purchase With A Purpose is our year round program where we make gift cards, redeemable at many local stores and restaurants, available for purchase in the Parlor on any Sunday morning. They may be used by the purchaser or given as gifts. If you have not participated in the Purchase with a Purpose program before I encourage you to make a **New Year's Resolution** to try it. A small change in your shopping habits could help us raise money for UMW's mission projects. For every gift card sold, a percentage is earned by UMW to fund mission. The projects that UMW supports help families in need, and you can help by simply purchasing gift cards before you shop.

How much do you spend a month on groceries? If you purchase \$300 of gift cards for Jewel each month you will be contributing over \$185 a year to UMW missions! Multiply this by 10 families and the contribution jumps to \$1850. You can use these gift cards to purchase prescriptions, garbage stickers, stamps, gas and of course groceries.

We have Starbuck's, Caribou Coffee, Panera Bread, Jewel, Dominick's, Ultra Foods, Speedway, Kohl's and Downtown Dollars ready to pick up at the table every Sunday! The order form, which is on the church website, continues to be updated with new vendors and restaurants that have opened in the area. Don't see the gift card that you want? Visit www.mannagroup.net click on vendor list and if you find something you'd like to order write it on the front of the order form.

Kohl's is the only store that allows you to pay your charge card bill with gift cards. When you receive your bill, you may buy the cards you need in \$25 denominations or place an order for larger denominations and they will be ready for you to pick up the next week so that you'll be in time to pay your bill.

We still have some **Toys R Us** cards left over from Christmas so if you plan to shop there stop by the PWP table first!

Thank you to everyone who shops and tells their friends about it. Also, thank you to all of you who take time on Sunday mornings to sit at the table in the Parlor and sell the gift cards and to the team of sorters who come each week to prepare the gift cards and orders.



The Bridge Family Needs Our Help

We are once again going to help fill the Bridge family's pantry – here is the rotation. Ultra Food gift cards are the best way to support the family. They can be purchased through Purchase with a Purpose. Julie Stone will delivery it to the family. Thanks in advance for your generosity!!

March—Mary Elizabeth

April—Ruth

May—Sarah

June—Miriam



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Thank You!

To all my UMW sisters who helped our unit host the Aurora District UMW Training meeting February 6,th I send my thanks.

On Friday morning Judy Bittkoffer shopped for the eggs, sausage, etc. needed for the breakfast dish. In the gym kitchen under her guidance, a group of women assembled the casseroles which were then refrigerated. With so many helping, it took about half the time that we had anticipated. I will add that the recently purchased electric mixer in the gym kitchen was a big help. In the gym 13 tables with chairs were set up. We used a valentine theme with the new red table coverings that Don Dunham had ordered. Leanne supplied the centerpieces of hearts etc. Fresh flowers were on the food table.

Our treasurer, Caroline Bertolino, received all the reservations for this event. With Ina Osborn's help they had name tags for all District women who had registered. We were told to prepare for about 100 women.

On Saturday morning many women from our unit showed up to help prepare the breakfast and serve. Thank you to all, but especially to Joan VanOrder and Judy for getting there at 7:00 AM to bake the casseroles. Thank you to the women who donated orange juice, bagels, cream cheese, and breads. I am grateful for the members of our Mission Team who acted as hostesses and guided attendees to the gym and appropriate rooms for their training sessions. A big thanks to the clean up crew. One lady, who was impressed that we used dishes and silverware, said to me "you must have a very large dishwasher". I am so glad we had women who knew how to run that "very large dishwasher".

Most of all, we need to thank Don Dunham! He was there Friday setting up tables and chairs in the gym plus a podium and speaking system. He put the requested tables in the parlor. On Saturday morning he was at the church very early to salt the sidewalks thinking of the safety of the women. He helped a district officer to carry boxes of book to the parlor.

All morning he was checking with me to see if we needed anything. I'm sure there was extra cleanup he had to do. When the closing worship service was over (thanks Ellie for playing the piano) about 12:30, a group of ladies brought in boxes of supplies for Haiti. Don graciously took these to Rev. Ostrander's office. Thank you Don for helping our UMW in so many ways to keep things running smoothly for this event and other meetings.

The Aurora District UMW Mission Team contributed a monetary gift to missions to honor DGFUMC United Methodist Women.

They appreciated the wonderful way we hosted this day.

Thank you very much,
Verla Boyle, Vice President



Joys and Concerns

Joys

- Yeah GOD!
- Doris' son does not have cancer and she had a wonderful time with her sister.

Concerns

- Betty Hargreaves is recovering.



Today's Proverb:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

[Proverbs 9:10](#) / [KJV](#)

Today's Verse:

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.

[Romans 12:10](#) / [KJV](#)

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

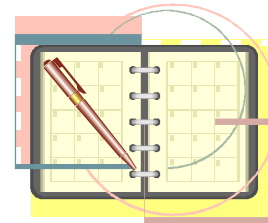
One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the six church wide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to live out its mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR responds to natural or human made disasters - those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

If there is someone in your circle who is homebound, please contact Doris Dalluege and she will send them a card.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER (mark your CALENDARS!)

Mar. 4, 2010	Mission Team—9:30 a.m.
Mar. 5, 2010	World Day of Prayer
April 8, 2010	Mission Team—9:30 a.m.
April 24, 2010	Spring District Meeting TBA
April 30—May 2	Assembly in St. Louis, Mo.



Submit articles to Shelly Davenport at sdavenportarch@yahoo.com or contact her at (630) 512-0370