



# INNER CIRCLES OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



United Methodist Women Newsletter

May 2010

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

### Dates to Remember

<b>Sarah Circle</b> 7:00pm <u>Room 213</u>	
<u>May Meeting</u> At Fairview Village	<b>05/12</b>
<u>June Meeting</u> At Linda Brif's	<b>06/28</b>
<b>Mary Elizabeth Circle-1:00pm</b> <u>Chapel Hall</u>	
<u>May Meeting</u>	<b>05/26</b>
<u>July Meeting</u>	<b>07/28</b>
<b>Rachel Circle</b> 9:00am <u>Chapel Hall</u>	
<u>May Meeting</u>	<b>05/20</b>
<u>June Meeting</u>	<b>tbd</b>
<b>Ruth Circle</b> 12:45pm <u>Chapel Hall</u>	
<u>May Meeting</u>	<b>05/27</b>
<u>June Meeting</u>	<b>none</b>
<b>Miriam Circle</b> 12:45pm <u>Various Homes</u>	
<u>May Meeting</u>	<b>05/27</b>
<u>June Meeting</u>	<b>none</b>

Dear UMW Sisters,

A HUGE thank you goes to everyone that helped with World Thank Offering Sunday. It was a wonderful celebration of UMW and we raised \$1,459 to help women and children around the world! Wonderful!!!! Thank you also to those members that gave me personal stories to share in my talk. I was inspired by them and I've received many comments from others who were inspired as well.

I want to welcome back our members who attended Assembly. This is a United Methodist Women gathering that happens only every four years. This was the year and they gathered in St. Louis, MO from April 30 – May 2. We had 5 members attend; Leanne and Curtis Rolfe, Verla Boyle, Melinda Brunell and Elizabeth Brunell. From what I've heard so far, it was a very moving and inspiring event for everyone.

Since this is the last newsletter until next September, I want to highlight a couple of events that are happening this spring and summer. Our spring general meeting is May 12. We will meet at Fairview Village. The meeting will begin with refreshments provided by the Sarah and Miriam Circles. At 7:30 we will have a brief business meeting and then the program, "Food and Faith" will be presented by Rev. John Gillham. I hope to see many of you at this gathering. Also, the School of Christian Mission Sampler Day (formerly Drive-In Day) will be on Thursday, July 22 at Judson University in Elgin. This is an educational event open to all UMW members. The leaders will present the mission studies for the year which are, "For the Love of God – the Epistles of John", "Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity" and "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan". The cost for the day is \$75. The Mission Team will give a scholarship to all who attend. Please see me if you have questions or would like to register. Also, mark your calendars for August 29 which will be Children's Sabbath. There will be more details to follow.

The next time we meet we will have said good-bye to Tom and Gayle Ostrander and will have welcomed Jim and Greta McDonald as our new pastors. I want to give a special thank you to Tom and Gayle for their loving support of UMW. We pray for them as they go through this transition and know that they will be loved at their new appointment.

I hope everyone has a very happy and relaxing summer. Blessings to you and your family!

I always thank God for you!  
Jennica Smoke

## Mary Elizabeth Circle

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

19 members attended our April 28 meeting. Our speaker, Kay Miller, talked about the Bridge program and mentoring a Bridge family. Marilyn Gillham gave a recap of an article in Response about Marcy Newberry. We took up a final collection for our spring donation to them. Judy B. will go shopping when she gets their Wish List. We collected our Prayer & Self Denial envelopes. Members signed up for May P & P table duty and for World Thank UMW Sunday 5/9.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the May 12 General Meeting at Fairview Village. Our next meeting will be our annual Dinner at Wilby's on May 26 at 5:30PM. Our annual Summer Salad Luncheon will be July 28 at Noon.

*Circle Coordinator—Judy Bittikoffer*



## Miriam Circle

### Meets at various homes—4th Thursday 12:45pm

Our April meeting was held at Doris Dalluege's apartment and 12 members were present. We were pleased to welcome Evie Neel, who is not able to be with us very often. Everyone brought their favorite poems which we took turns reading. Jan was the only one to compose her own poem which was very good.

We were happy to bring various types of baby clothing to donate to an organization gathering and distributing baby clothing for Haiti. Plans for our May meeting were discussed. Co-hostess with Doris was Ellie Cole.

*Co-Circle Coordinator— Jan Morey and Marge Froemke*



## Ruth Circle

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

Thirteen members were present for our April meeting. We signed up for the Purchase with a Purpose table for 3 Sundays in May. Our program was very interesting. Shelly Davenport told us about her family's visit to the Heifer Project farm in Arkansas. She showed pictures of their time there. Elizabeth Vaughn volunteered her home for our Spring Salad luncheon on May 27<sup>th</sup> at noon.

We will meet again in September. Have a great summer and don't forget to consider attending the School of Christian Mission in July. Contact me or Verla Boyle, if you are interested in going. The Mission Team voted to pay \$40 (out of \$90) for the Sampler Day (Drive In Day) July 22 and \$100 (out of \$250) for the weekend (July 22-25) school. Please give it some serious thought. It's a great opportunity. We'll learn about our studies for next year.

*Circle Coordinator—Leanne Rolfe*



## Scripture Lesson

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1: 15-23

### **Mary Anderson (1872–1964) *Labor Activist***

Anderson's keen negotiating skills and labor activism, especially on behalf of working women, won her an appointment in 1920 as the first director of the Women's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Labor. During her 24 years there, she played a major role in winning federal minimum wage and maximum hour laws for women. After retiring in 1944, Anderson continued to advocate on behalf of working women.

### **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!!

May—Sarah

June—Miriam

### **Prayer Calendar Minute**

"Many people, when they come to a religious outreach ministry, expect no questions asked, just give them what they need. It's amazing that with all the clients we serve, about 214 families, that whenever they come they expect whatever their needs are the ministry will have it. You know, they are right. Every tiome we come into the presence of God, God always answers our needs. It is because of the love of God in your hearts for all people and your continued support to this ministry we are able to fill their expectations. We celebrate what God is doing."

*Governor Mays, church and community worker, Ogden Friendship House, Ogden, Kan*

23 de abril 2010

*Buenas!*

Last Saturday I was invited for “tea” in a country known for its incredible coffee. My expectations placed visions of sandwiches, cakes, or sweets as was customary in Chile with their tradition of “*once*”. Oh “sweet” expectations!

That connection was somewhat different as we began with a tasty bowl of fruit-cocktail swimming in yogurt followed by hot sandwiches and yummy cookies. Chatting over the yogurt mix,

we moved into the topic of family and my hostess and her sister began to tell a tale of their beginnings in this land and the circle that has brought them to where they are today.

The youngest of 12 children their mother died when they were but toddlers, leaving their father to tend the farm and raise the children alone. Impossible to see a way out, their father took advantage of a nearby home for children run by missionaries. *Hogar Biblico* took these 4 toddlers in with open arms as the elder children in the family worked the farm. The *hogar* was founded by the same missionary couple, the Strachans, who were founders of the Latin American Mission which later became Latin American Biblical University. I was amazed at this circle of life and the connection. My hostess and her siblings retain to this day that their missionary house-Mom has been and will always be “Mom” to them and “Grandmother” to their own children.

Their father later remarried and fortunately maintained contact with his youngest children as they lived and studied in the *hogar*. One of the greatest benefits for the 4 toddlers was their Christian formation and their future studies in the university, opportunities missed by the older siblings. How odd it was for me to be sharing tea in the home of such blessed lives. And now to know that my hostess, who is a coworker, had her beginnings in a mission institution that had “birth” connections to the same seminary where she now works. The threads of life were shining through all aspects of our visit. It indeed was a very “sweet” experience.

Even if we are not aware of the connection, we are all connected. Many times in the uncomfortable or the incomprehensible the connection isn’t apparent, or we turn from it. At times we just need to take the time for it to unfold and be revealed to us. Something as simple as sharing “tea” can reveal the Savior in amazing ways.

Que Dios les Bendiga,

Becky Harrell, Missionary

General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church (Southwest Texas Conference)



**Ethel Percy Andrus (1884–1967)** *Elder Rights Activist*

Andrus was the founder of the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) in 1947 and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in 1958. As its first president, Andrus pioneered nursing home reform legislation, often testified before Congress on issues of concern to senior citizens, and challenged mandatory retirement laws. She showed Americans of all ages that older people can and do live productive, useful, and purposeful lives.

## Ways & Means

Can you step up your participation in our year round fundraiser? And get your friends involved too? **Purchase With A Purpose** makes 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. 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.

Don't forget the special occasions coming up. With an Amazon.com gift card Dad can buy almost anything on the internet when Father's Day is here. If you get invited to a graduation party this summer an iTunes gift card would make a fun gift for a music lover of any kind.

We have changed to our summer schedule, of placing an order on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The usual gift cards will continue to be available every week throughout the summer, but your order may take a little longer to come in so plan ahead. Arrangements may be made to pick up your gift certificates in the church office.

Every Sunday in the Parlor we have Starbuck's, Caribou Coffee, Panera Bread, Jewel, Dominick's, Ultra Foods, Speedway, Home Depot, Kohl's and Downtown Dollars ready to pick up! The order form, which is also 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](http://www.mannagroup.net), click on the 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 in time to pay your bill.

Arizona passed a new illegal immigration law. The public of Arizona broadly supports a new Arizona law aimed at dealing with illegal immigration and the law's provisions giving police increased powers to stop and detain people who are suspected of being in the country illegally. Here a link to an article, <http://people-press.org/report/613/arizona-immigration-law>, and I am sure you can find many more, if you are interested. Apparently Arizona has done some interesting things in the past, Superbowl XXVII was scheduled to be held in Tempe, Arizona, but when Arizona legislature refused to pass a law recognizing the federal holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr., the NFL yanked Superbowl XXVII from Arizona and awarded it to California. Arizona finally approved the holiday in 1992 and was awarded the 1996 Superbowl. Very interesting! After you research the immigration issue, if you find you are in disagreement with it, here are some ways to boycott Arizona: do not buy Arizona Iced Tea, stop listening to and purchasing the music of the group Phoenix, stop shopping at JC Penney or at least stop buying Arizona jeans, do not watch the Diamondbacks, or Cardinals or any other team that calls Arizona their home for spring training or otherwise, do not follow Meghan McCain, or don't visit Arizona—you can still go to the Grand Canyon, just don't frequent any Arizona stores. I am sure there are other ways is you want to seek them out. Just food for thought!

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

- Sweet Repeat Resale will be Oct. 15, 2010

## "Thank You"

Thank you for bringing the beautiful prayer shawls and/or baby blankets/quilts to Assembly. United Methodist Women brought 2,047+ prayer shawls (973) and baby blankets (1,074) with them to Assembly bringing the total received by Women's Division to 10,011+.

The prayer shawls and baby blankets will be distributed to the national mission institutions across the five jurisdictions. Approximately 1,650 receiving blankets (included in the totals) were used for the birthing kits United Methodist Women assembled at the Assembly.

Also prayer shawls and baby blankets continued to be delivered to New York while we were at Assembly.

Thank you United Methodist Women!!

Blessings,

Linda

Staff Recording Secretary, Women's Division



# Happy Birthday



<u>May</u>		<u>July</u>	
Shirley Brown	05/07	Leanne Rolfe	07/03
Carolyn Donnelly	05/10	Heather Cerne	07/06
Dawn Magliola	05/12	Lois Bruns	07/06
Wendy Nystrom	05/13	Joan Van Order	07/07
Nancy Zimmerman	05/14	Caroline Bertolino	07/10
Carolyn Drogemuller	05/15	Elizabeth Brunell	07/21
Arlene Guest	05/23	Beth Phillips	07/21
Cindi Roselieb	05/24	Jennica Smoke	07/25
Shirley Beechamp	05/24	Mary Lee Rhodes	07/31
Lenore Pitstick	05/28		
Nancy Bifulco	05/29		
		<u>August</u>	
		Janet Meister	08/06
		Stacey Salman	08/07
		Ginny Foskett	08/12
		Maureen Dunn	08/13
		Joyce Nelson	08/15
		Dorothy Kesl	08/22
		Judy Bittikoffer	08/24
		Margery Bergstrom	08/25
		Martha Robison	08/26




# Joys and Concerns

## Joys

- Yeah GOD!

## Concerns

- Carolyn Drogemuller--Healing prayers as she deals with medical concerns.
- Verla's son-in-law, Tom Dunlap, was in a motorcycle accident. Prayers for him and his family.
- Julie's mother has a living arrangement change.
- Julie's daughter's school in need of prayers.



Thank you to everyone who helped me raise \$255.00 for the Step-a-Thon during the United Methodist Women Assembly. The goal was 15,000 steps, but I walked 46,509 steps during the three day event. On Friday, I walked 22,079 steps – the most I ever walked in one day. The money will go to women, children and youth around the world.

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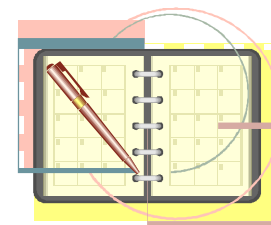
We learned at Assembly that the young people of today are very concerned about saving the earth and being compassionate toward people. Case in point: Leanne, "Instead of buying you girls a tee-shirt at Assembly, I put the \$20.00 in the offering plate". Michelle (13 yrs old), "Good job, Grandma!"



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!)

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|--------------|--|
| May 12, 2010 | General Meeting—7:00 p.m.<br>At Fairview Village |
| July 22-25   | Summer School of<br>Christian Mission, Elgin     |
| Aug. 29      | Children's Sabbath                               |
| Sept. 2      | Mission Team—9:30 a.m.                           |



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