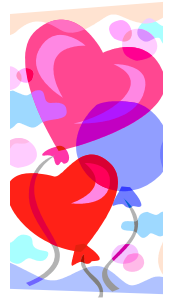




# The Inner Circles of the First United Methodist Church



February 2012

President Judy Bittikoffer

**February 2012**

<p><b>Sarah Circle</b> 7:00pm <u>Room 213</u></p> <p><u>Feb. Meeting</u>    <b>02/27</b></p> <p><u>Mar. Meeting</u>    <b>03/19</b></p>
<p><b>Mary Elizabeth Circle-1:00pm</b> <u>Chapel Hall</u></p> <p><u>Feb. Meeting</u>    <b>02/22</b></p> <p><u>Mar. Meeting</u>    <b>03/28</b></p>
<p><b>Rachel Circle</b> 9:00am <u>Chapel Hall</u></p> <p><u>Feb. Meeting</u>    <b>02/23</b></p> <p><u>Mar. Meeting</u>    <b>03/22</b></p>
<p><b>Ruth Circle</b> 12:45pm <u>Chapel Hall</u></p> <p><u>Feb. Meeting</u>    <b>02/23</b></p> <p><u>Mar. Meeting</u>    <b>03/22</b></p>
<p><b>Miriam Circle</b> 12:45pm <u>Various Homes</u></p> <p><u>Feb. Meeting</u>    <b>02/23</b></p> <p><u>Mar. Meeting</u>    <b>03/22</b></p>

Dear UMW Sisters,

On February 9th, we held our first general meeting of 2012. Thirty-six members attended this wonderful breakfast meeting hosted by Rachel circle. The food was great. Rev. Steve Good presented a program on Haiti, which is one of our 2012 mission studies. He has lived in that area and has returned many times. He shared his experiences and gave us a good understanding of how United Methodist Women help to improve the lives of women and children in Haiti.

All of our circles just held their yearly pledge programs. I am sure many of you wonder where does this money go? All money goes to the national organization for distribution. A panel of 8 people review the missions to ensure they meet the criteria set by United Methodist Women. A list of all our missions and maps showing where they are located, is in the February 2012 issue of Response magazine. Each circle coordinator gets this magazine and would be glad to share it with you. You will be happy to know that only 9% of this money is used for administrative costs and 76% is used for mission. United Methodist Women have expressed their commitment in clinics, schools, programs of leadership development and spiritual support. Grants from our pledge money, A Call to Prayer and Self Denial offerings, World Thank Offerings and other supplemental giving show up in many ways to improve the lives of women and children around the world. For more information you can go to the website: [umwmission.org](http://umwmission.org).

Thank you everyone for your generous yearly pledge to mission. United Methodist Women really make a difference in the lives of women and children around the world.

Let's be in mission together!

Judy Bittikoffer



Items from Haiti

**Miriam Circle— mostly women of grown children—meet in women’s homes**  
**Meets at various homes—4th Thursday 12:45pm**

Miriam circle met at the home of Garland Cramer for our January meeting. We had 12 members present and 3 guests. Kay Haggh brought refreshments which we all enjoyed. Mary Lord introduced us to our speakers. They were Stan Clements, Ann Miller, and Susan Hogan. They told us about the Bridge Program and the family they are in charge of now. We learned many things about Bridge from them. Kay Haggh was in charge of the Pledge Service. The Christian personhood part of our meeting was given by Garland Cramer. She received a letter from Debbie Rissing and Jeff Wasilevich. They are on a mission assignment in Peru. They told many things about their work in Peru and Bolivia.

We will meet again on February 23rd at the home of Doris Dalluege. This month we need to bring money for the Bridge Family.

*Co-Circle Coordinator— Frances Stone*



**Sarah Circle—mostly working women—no childcare available**  
**Meets in the Room 213—4th Monday 7:00pm**

Fourteen Sarah circle members met for our annual pledge service. We welcomed Dana Sharrett (who joined our evening circle due to her new work schedule) and Anne Kehoe. Our treasure Sharon Harman presented the program and refreshed our memories on “UMW 101.” Then, we passed around old copies of the Response magazine and we each found an article that spoke to us to share with the group. It reminded us about the varied missions and scope of our UMW worldwide organization. Our prepared Response moment was the article “Redeeming Time in the Philippines: Wisdom from a Teacher, Gardener and Political Prisoner” from the January Response magazine.

Our Diaper Drive service project is being held during the month of February. We will be collecting diapers from the congregation (especially the larger sizes 4-6 and adult) to bring to the People’s Resource Center.

Looking ahead to our spring meeting dates – in March, our regular 4th Monday evening of the month meeting is changed to the 3rd Monday (March 19th) due to the schools’ spring breaks. We will meet on the 4th Monday of April (April 23rd) as per our regular schedule. In May, our meeting will be on Thursday, May 31st when we staff the evening shift at the People’s Resource Center.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 27th in Room 213 at the church. We will gather at 7:00 pm for fellowship and treats, and at 7:30 pm we will begin our program. Peg Schultz will present the first of a three-part series entitled “Spirit, Wind and Fire: Three Stories of Transformation.” We welcome all to join us!

*Circle Coordinator— Lilian Ficht*

**PWP Rotation**

March 2012— Rachel

June 2012— Rachel / Sarah

April 2012— Sarah

July 2012— Please volunteer

May 2012— Ruth / Mary Elizabeth

**Ruth Circle—women of all ages—childcare provided upon request**  
**Meets in Chapel Hall- 4th Thursday 12:45 pm**

Eleven members and one guest met on a balmy January afternoon. Elizabeth Vaughan shared an article from the Response magazine on John Wesley and giving. Caroline Bertolino shared a devotion and a page from the Prayer Calendar. Jennifer Segrest led our annual pledge service. We watched a video from the UMW website “Where Do Our Mission Giving Dollars Go?” and she incorporated some scripture readings telling us that we need to imitate Christ’s humility. One mission that was highlighted was a UMW sponsored mission for girls in Haiti whose sole purpose is to let these girls come together and laugh, because after the earthquake, violence has escalated against women and children. Julie Stone made a wonderful vanilla mousse cheesecake. We encouraged all to come to the February general meeting.

Our February meeting will be held on the 23rd and we might have a bible study—so stay tuned. Our March meeting will be held on the 22nd and we will have our prayer and self denial program.

*Circle Coordinator—Shelly Davenport*



**Mary Elizabeth Circle—mostly women of grown children—childcare upon request**  
**Meets in Chapel Hall-4th Wednesday 1:00pm**

Fourteen members attended our January 25th meeting. Our hostess’ Ellie Fletcher and Pat Pyburn provided us with delicious desserts, drinks, and fruit. Bonnie Lehmann and Joyce Novotny presented our Pledge Service. Our money supports missionary work all over the world. We put serious thought into increasing our pledge for 2012. Marilou Welch did our devotions and read from the prayer calendar. We passed out our UMW yearbooks and encouraged everyone to attend the February 9th general meeting. Rev. Steve Good will present a program on Haiti which is one of our 2012 mission studies. February is our turn to sit at the Purchase with a Purpose table and we filled all the spots. Judy Bittikoffer read us all the thank you notes she received from all the projects we support. We also signed birthday cards for the missionaries Judy sends out each month.

Our next meeting is February 22nd. Our speaker will be Terry McDorman. He will speak on accessibility issues. That is a topic he is very involved with in the district.

*Circle Coordinator—Joan Van Order*



**Rachel Circle—mostly mother’s of young children—childcare always provided**  
**Meets in Rm. 213 - 4th Thursday 9:00 am**

Rachel circle gathered in January for our annual pledge service, there were 8 of us present. Angela presented an article from Response about fair trade chocolate. We also took some time to discuss some New Year reflection questions and we took home handouts to work on ourselves. We have a couple of things in the works for February, nothing definite yet.

*Circle Coordinator— Cindi Roselieb*

## **Prayer Calendar Minute**

“ ‘My sons are autistic and have never been able to go to camp. Thank you so much for this chance.’ These were the words of a mother as we prepared to find an integration specialist and a trained camp staff member to go to camp with her children. We were able to provide a church camp experience for her autistic boys like other children.”

*Deaconess Leslie Hobson, integration specialist coordinator, Minnesota United Methodist Conference Retreats, Conferences and Camp Office*

## **February is.....Black History Month**

Black History Month grew from Negro History Week, which was established by Carter G. Woodson in 1926. He chose the month of February because he believed it would also honor the persons important to the American Negro, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Woodson's hope was that the contributions of Blacks worldwide would be celebrated, recognized and ultimately included as an integral part of world history. His understanding of the world was that there were significant populations of people of African descent all over the world, that the African Diaspora reached places that some could not imagine, such as Russia, Great Britain and other parts of Europe as well as the Caribbean, South America and North America.

In 1976 Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month, expanding the period that encourages people to learn more about the contributions of Blacks and to celebrate those contributions. All over the United States people are learning about the significant role Black people have held in shaping this country.

In the effort to fight the sin of racism, the General Commission on Religion and Race is encouraging churches to observe this special time by learning about the leadership and contributions of Blacks in the church and larger society and sharing this history with others. By increasing our understanding of the Black experience and teaching younger generations this rich and triumphant heritage, we begin to actively overcome the ignorance and bigotry that fuel racism. The Commission offers the following resources in an effort to assist you in planning church activities during this month and throughout the year.

### **Maya Angelou (1928-) *Author/Poet***

Angelou is a novelist, poet, professional stage and screen writer, dancer, editor, lecturer, songwriter, and civil rights activist. Most notable among her publications are autobiographical novels starting with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, published in 1970, which helped establish the memoir as a popular genre. In 1993, Angelou recited an original poem at President Clinton's inauguration, confirming her status as "a people's poet."

### **Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) *Fugitive Slave, Rescuer of Slaves***

Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland. In 1849, she fled to Philadelphia but returned to Maryland the next year to begin the first of many Underground Railroad trips to lead family and friends to freedom using caution, skill, and subterfuge. Some passengers she escorted to Canada. In the Civil War, Tubman was a spy and scout for the Union in the Sea Islands. In 1896, she spoke at the convention of the American National Woman Suffrage Association convention.

## Ways & Means

### Are your purchases made with a purpose?

What's stopping you from participating in our year round fundraiser? Stop by our table in the Parlor on Sunday and find out how easy it is to buy and use the gift cards. Our loyal customers will encourage you to try it. Purchase With A Purpose makes gift cards, redeemable at many local stores and restaurants, available for purchase in the Parlor on any Sunday morning. 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. If everyone made a small change in their shopping habits we could raise more money for UMW's mission projects.

Did you know that most of our gift cards are accepted throughout the U.S.? If you are traveling for Spring Break, don't forget to bring your favorite restaurant gift cards or gas cards with you (we sell Disney gift cards too!) Even the grocery cards are accepted nationwide, sometimes under different names; for instance Dominick's is also Vons or Safeway. Many may be used when shopping on line such as amazon.com or iTunes.

Every Sunday we have Caribou Coffee, Dominick's, Home Depot, Jewel, Kohl's, Meijer, Panera Bread, Speedway Gas, Starbuck's, Target, Ultra Foods, Walgreens, and Downers Grove Downtown Dollars ready to pick up at the table in the Parlor! Orders are placed on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and arrangements can be made for you to pick up your order in the church office during the week.

Don't forget that you can pay your Kohl's charge card bill with gift cards in \$25 (available every week) and \$100 denominations. When you receive your bill, order the cards you need on Sunday so that you'll be in time to pay your bill.

Since Christmas we have some special purchase cards left over. If you could help us out by purchasing a \$10 Bath & Body Works or Barnes & Noble card please do.

## Program Resources

### Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope and Courage

by Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett

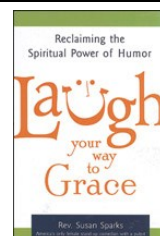
All over the world, women and girls face starvation, displacement, illiteracy, sexual exploitation and abuse. These pages hold their stories of deep pain and suffering, inspiring courage and incredible hope. They are the stories of girls who have discovered their value in God's eyes in the midst of cultures that have rejected them.



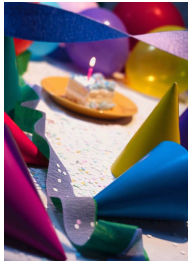
### Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor

by Susan Sparks

Laughter is the gift that you received at birth, one thing you were able to do freely as a child. It's a gift that may fade but never fully disappears. Laugh Your Way to Grace is intended to give you permission to reconnect with your own sense of joy and hope.



# Happy Birthday!

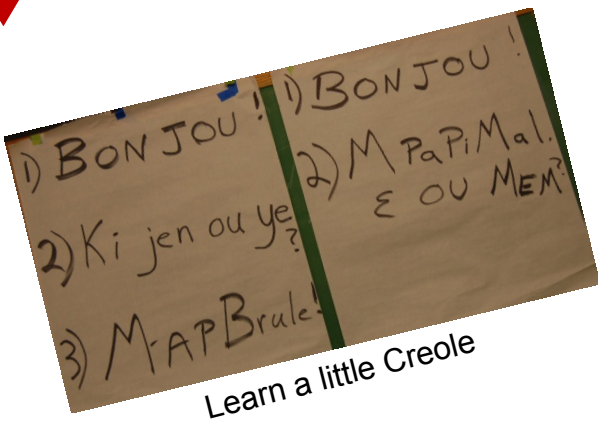


## February

Connie Ogdon	02/08
Marge Froemke	02/09
Jeanne Schmid	02/12
Joyce Clark	02/13
Valerie Zajak	02/14
Helen Davies	02/16
Jan Morey	02/27

## March

Betty Hargreaves	03/01
Jean Remington	03/12
Sandra Pine	03/19
Arlene McCoy	03/20
Julie Stone	03/28
Devra Dunham	03/31



Learn a little Creole

# Haiti

The presentation on Haiti was both captivating and informative. Haiti has a very interesting history. Taino Indians lived on the island when the Europeans arrived in 1492. Spain began to import enslaved Africans in the 1500's. Being a haven for pirates in the 1600's. Winning it's independence in 1804. The devastation of the earthquake in 2010. Haiti is very close to the Caribbean plate and has had at least 19 earthquakes between 1562 and 2010. May 2011 Response magazine is filled with information on Haiti, a copy can be found on the UMW book cart in the church library. Read all about the struggle and hope of Haiti and prepare a program for your circle.



Judy Bittikoffer

Rev. Steve Good

Verla Boyle

## February General Meeting



A sweet treat for all who came to the meeting



## **World Day of Prayer is March 2, 2012**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year,

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March.

Throughout the entire day, we collectively pray all over the world, beginning with the first sunrise and ending at the last sunset. Our prayers follow the sun's path around the globe. WDP's motto is "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action." Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. During the past decade, the ministries of Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the World Methodist Council and the Pan-Methodist Commission, all partners with the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (ICF) have expressed a common concern for four major areas – violence against women, economic justice, racism, and the need for greater participation in the life of the church. Learn more about the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund at [www.umcgiving.org/ICF](http://www.umcgiving.org/ICF).

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.

It is:

- Symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.
- Brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.

### **Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)** Abolitionist, Suffragist

Sojourner Truth was freed when New York abolished slavery in 1828. She successfully sued for freedom for a son who had been sold illegally. Already a forceful speaker for abolition, she attended a Women's Rights Convention in 1850 and became a strong voice for women's rights and suffrage with her famous speech in Ohio in 1852, "Ain't I a Woman?" After the Civil War, she tried to get Congress to provide land in the West for newly freed blacks.

### **Stay Connected! Keep in Touch!**

Visit the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women website -

[www.gbmg-umc.org/umwnic/](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/umwnic/)

Browse the United Methodist Women website - [www.gbmg-umc.org/umw/](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/umw/)

UMW Mission Resources website:

<http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umw/resources>

DGFUMC website: <http://www.dgfumc.org>

FUMCUMW website: <http://www.dgfumc.org/fellowship/umw>

UMC General Board of Church and Society Faith in Action website:

[http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.2798475/k.7A8F/Faith\\_in\\_Action.htm](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.2798475/k.7A8F/Faith_in_Action.htm)

## Prayer Corner

### Joys

- Yeah GOD!
- Doris Dalluege had a nice birthday celebration with her twin sister.

### Concerns

- Beth Phillips still needs out healing prayers.
- Joan Van Order needs prayers for peace on the death of her son.
- Marilyn Gillham needs healing prayers.



## Scripture Reading

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

*Luke 6: 17-26*

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER (mark your CALENDARS!)

Mar. 1	Mission Team	9:00 a.m.
Mar. 2	World Day of Prayer	
April 5	Mission Team	9:00 a.m.
April 28	Spring District Meeting—TBA	
May 3	Mission Team	9:00 a.m.
May 3	National Day of Prayer	



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