

From Your President ~

It was a wonderful spring kind of a day and the journey to the church was rather pleasant. My "friends" were to pick me up by 7:15am, and I was ready by 7am and waiting. My house phone rang but I was already outside. I was unable to answer it. My ride showed up at 7:30am thereabouts. We got to the Riverview UMC and it was a wonderful reception from the start.



We were greeted by the Pastor and his wife and the members of the unit. WOW! Fantastic hospitality was experienced throughout the day. You could not ask for anything if there wasn't someone ready to make it happen. Deaconess Mary Melvin took us through several ways to reconnect with God as we work to seek him in the silence. Of note was the prayer shawl making activity which was indeed a very worthwhile time of sharing. It is something we will always have and cherish and we express our thanks to Deaconess Melvin for her time with us.

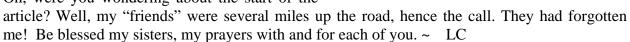
The members of the Committee on Nominations were all decked out in hats of varying styles as they mixed with the attendees encouraging them to be in prayer about future leadership roles in our District.

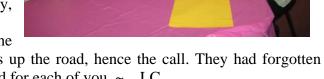
The EC District fulfilled its goal of educating the membership at all District events about the 2016 General Conference. Please be in prayer for Joyce Waldon Bright who has taken the step to be a candidate.

Pastor Kim shared with us words of encouragement and lived up to his role as a member of United Methodist Women. We are truly thankful to Pastor Kim for his time with us throughout the day. It was indeed a day of rest and reflection and a word to thanks to the members of the Riverview UMC and the EC District leadership team.

To all Unit Presidents, please remember you are invited to the President's Event on Saturday, May 23, 2015 at Lake Mary UMC.

Oh, were you wondering about the start of the





MARK YOUR CALENDARS SO YOU DON'T MISS THESE IMPORTANT DATES:

May 23, 2015..."President's Tea/Lunch" (Grace UMC Lake Mary)

July 9-12, 2015...Mission U (Bethune Cookman Daytona Beach)

September 19, 2015...Mission Sampler (1st Pine Hills)

October 17, 2015...District Annual Meeting (Orange City UMC)

Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women





Elinor Teska, president of Grace United Methodist Women, presented a check to Dr. Valene Hartsfield of Lake Mary Elementary School. The funds are used to assist with glasses, field trips, etc. for twenty to thirty disadvantaged children at the school. Grace United Methodist Women has given to this local ministry for three years. They have also led the church members to supply two new uniforms, socks and underwear for each of the children for four years.

Mission u is coming up, July 9th-12th at Bethune Cookman University. Registration deadline is June 25th. The registration form is at the end of the newsletter.

Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on recent mission study topics. Mission u is open to members and non-

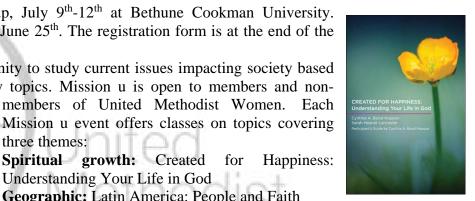
three themes:

Mission u event offers classes on topics covering

Spiritual growth: Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God

Geographic: Latin America: People and Faith

Issue study: The Church and People with Disabilities

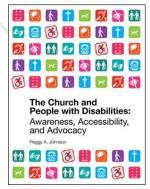


What shall I expect?

At Mission u: Learning Together for Transformation of the World you grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. The studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of women in the fulfillment of the mission work of the church.

Mission u Events also include:

Worship & singing Interest Groups around current issues Officer training Audiovisual presentations Fellowship events





Members of the Palm Coast Unit of United Methodist Women presented the skit from the mission study book, *The Church and People with Disabilities: Awareness, Accessibility, and Advocacy*, at the five-unit study held at Palm Coast United Methodist Church Monday, March 16, 2015.



From the left: Gloria Wilkins as Samuel in a wheelchair; Louise Deckman as Jane, blind; Drucilla Singleton as Emilio, deaf; Elise Richardson as Rose, using sign language; and Laura DelGrosso as narrator and wait person at the café. Not shown is Hazel Knight as Priscilla, a fifty-year-old woman. The skit was well received by members of the five units in attendance: Bunnell, Flagler Beach, Palm Coast, Riverview in Ormond by the Sea, and Tomoka in Ormond Beach.

Looking over the materials presented by the five units are, left to right, Rev. Joseph Kim, pastor of Riverview UMC, Ormond by the Sea; Drucilla Singleton, president of host unit Palm Coast UMW; Jean Gritman of Palm Coast; and Gayle Goodman, president of Flagler Beach UMW unit. More than 50 members attended the mission study.



Sanlando United Methodist Women Event Draws Crowd, Delights with Dinner & Top-Notch Speakers

Nearly 90 women and teens attended the United Methodist Women chili dinner and program March 6 in Sanlando Fellowship Hall. Guests were urged to "Be the Difference," the theme of the 2015 UMW year, by listening for calls to action – no matter how small – that can make a



difference in our community and around the world. Self-defense keynote speaker Jeff Cleveland and Imagine No Malaria speaker Kylie Foley inspired, entertained, and motivated the audience to embody the theme of the evening: "Women of Power & Purpose." Thanks to the generosity of all who attended the program, funds were collected and donated to Imagine No Malaria, the United Methodist church-wide effort to overcome malaria in

Africa. (Pictured: Kyle Foley being presented with a donation by Jill Mross and Jinny Copeland.)





First Winter Garden United Methodist Women will be hosting their annual Mother, Daughter, Friend Luncheon Sunday, May 3rd. All ladies are invited to celebrate FUMC Winter Garden's 120th Anniversary with a fried chicken dinner – complete with all of the trimmings. Tickets are required and are \$8 adult and \$5 for children 10 and under. Contact Suzy Nagy at 407-617-0779 or SNagy0464@gmail.com for more information. Deadline is April 26.

(The newsletter did not get out in time to take advantage of this training course, but check out the website if you are interested in future events!)

Abolitionist Training Course

Join Florida Abolitionist for this in-depth look into Human Trafficking. They will discuss how to recognize Human Trafficking, what to do when you suspect it's taking place, as well as the aspects of Rescue, Restoration and Justice. This session will address what is taking place here in the Greater Orlando Area and how you can personally engage with our city-wide unified efforts to end Modern-Day Slavery.

Be sure to register for this important TWO DAY training event today. Seating is limited! April 17, 2015 - 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm April 18, 2015 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Register at: http://floridaabolitionist.org/event-registration/

First Winter Garden's Circle of Hope has an annual soup fundraiser in January to benefit their sister church, Impact of God in Velasco, Cuba. The majority of members are women and children. The church is very grateful and sends pictures of what the funds are used for.

The 2012 funds were used to remodel their kitchen. In 2013 walls were built around the church. The soup funds were used in 2014 to put a new roof on the church. The 2015 funds are planned to place a bathroom in the



church. Circle of Hope members make 3-4 different types of soup and church members purchase them as "takeout" on a Sunday after church services.



Coronado Community UMC, New Smyrna Beach, United Methodist Women do an Easter Basket project each year and this year their Deborah Circle made 99 and the Pricilla Circle 69. The baskets are given to an organization called the Gifts of Love and they love them. They also had a joint Mission Study with Edgewater United Methodist on a book titled "How Is It With Your Soul." Prior to the Mission Day our associate minister held 4 classes on the four chapters in the book. The donation money was sent to the Cuban Ministries which receive 200.00 a month; therefore, we made it possible for five ministers to continue. It was a great success. Thanks to everyone.

ARE THERE ANY VOLUNTEERS IN YOUR UNIT/ORGANIZATION?

It has been suggested that if God were to write a want ad and email it from eternity, it would read something like this:

United Methodist Women leaders urgently and immediately needed. The shortage of serious volunteers makes it mandatory to expand and extend our labor pool.

We readily have a number of openings and opportunities to offer. Failure to fill these openings may force us to cut back on our services.

We offer excellent training resources that have been tried, updated and proven for nearly 150 years. We hire regardless of race or age. We welcome diverse backgrounds.

The main qualifications include but are not limited to: a firm commitment to our PURPOSE, a soft heart and thick skin. This line of work is not suitable for everyone.

Only serious applicants need apply

Sisters, how accurate of an account this ad is when we think about the current conditions of our organization due to its declining and downsizing. In other words, the accurate ad is a perfect prophetic portrayal of the problematic predicament the organization finds itself in due to the lack of more devoted and dedicated members.

It has been concluded that there are three categories of members in our contemporary organization.

There are **SPECTATORS** – those who are there just to **WATCH**.

There are the **ANTICIPATORS** – those who are just there to **WAIT**.

There are **PARTICIPATORS** – those who are there to **WORK**.

One prophetic writer put it this way about the people in the pews. We are full of **will** folks – those who are willing to work and those who are willing to let them.

If you are willing to respond to the ad with the East Central District United Methodist Women, you may contact us at ec.umwvp@yahoo.com for more information.

Adapted from an article written by Rev. H. D. Lewis

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