

Greetings to East Central District Ladies,

This is my favorite time of the year: many shades of green as old leaves drop to the ground and new light green leaves fill the branches on the trees. Early spring flowers push through the ground and color seems to be all around. Brings back one of the first poems we learn when we enter Grade One.

I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.
A tree that looks at God all day and lifts her leafy arms to pray.
A tree that may in summer wear a nest of robins in her hair.
Upon whose bosom snow has lain; who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree.

By Joyce Kilmer

I love poetry! And I love nature even more! I am excited about our next study, *Climate Justice, a Call to Hope and Action*, at Mission u. I pray that many of your units will send a couple of ladies off to spend the four days with us.

It is an apt time to hold our "Spring Day Apart" on April 16, 2016, and enjoy our day apart from all our worldly tasks to a day we can spend time with God. I am looking forward to seeing you all.

Linda Gustafson
President of the East Central District United Methodist Women

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

April 16, 2016...Spring Day Apart (Grace UMC, Lake Mary)
July 7-10, 2016...Mission u (Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach)
September 17, 2016...Mission Studies Sampler (Sanlando UMC, Longwood)
October 22, 2016...District Annual Meeting (First Winter Garden)
November 5, 2016...Conference Annual Meeting (LEC, Leesburg)

Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women ~ "You will know them by their fruit" Matthew 7:20

April 2016

The Flagler Beach unit held its annual United Methodist Women Sunday, March 13, 2016, and conducted both the 8:30 am praise service and the 11:00 am traditional service. The guest speaker was the Rev. Deb Richardson-Moore, pastor and director of the Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, SC. She is the author of the United Methodist Women Reading Program book, *The Weight of Mercy*, a memoir of her first three years as a pastor.

Each year the unit presents three Special Mission Recognition Pins to honor members of the church who have given freely of their talents and time to further the Kingdom of our Lord. The 2016 honorees are Sue Baldwin, Sarah Kerr and Larry Kerr. The unit also gives Certificates of Appreciation to members acknowledging the varied services they give to the church. These honorees were Niki Ellinor, Fred Ellinor, Brenda Winters, Kirsten Brown, Scott Brown, and Cameron Michael.



The collage depicts the following:

A reception for Pastor Deb was held Saturday afternoon in the fellowship hall so members could meet her and chat about her experiences. Nancy Curl was worship leader at both services. Patti Powell and Sarah Dearduff ushered at the Praise service. United Methodist Women members were ushers at the traditional service, from the left, Paula Engle, Bette Rountree, Martha Luke, and Rita Simmons. The Rev. Deb Richardson Moore, pastor and director of the Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, SC. Sue Baldwin was given a Recognition Pin particularly for the 19 years she served as leader of the Wisdom Circle. Vice President Alice Pickett made the presentation. United Methodist Women President, Carol Elliott, at the lectern, read the accomplishments of the pin recipients while Alice Pickett gave them their pins. Here, Sarah and Larry Kerr are honored for their work overseeing the Food Pantry, plus Sarah is missions coordinator and Larry is lay leader. Unit President Carol Elliott thanked Pastor Deb after the services for her inspiring message detailing the work of the Mercy Center. Marion Guyer told Pastor Deb how much she appreciated the message and the work Pastor Deb is doing with the homeless in her city. FBUMC Pastor Jeanine Clontz and Pastor Deb could relate to each other as women pastors.

Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women

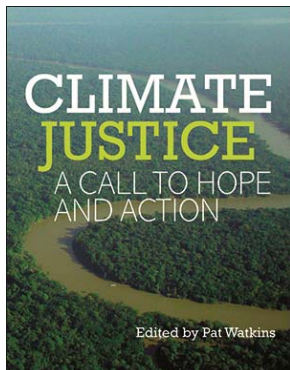
United Methodist Women ~ "You will know them by their fruit" Matthew 7:20

April 2016

To all local units of East Central District

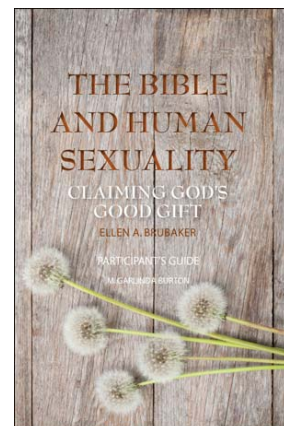
Greetings!

Attendance at the upcoming Mission u is warmly encouraged. It will provide experiences that would lead to personal change, and help each of us to transform the world by learning together, as we grow in understanding mission and to engage in mission.



This year, it will be held in the Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, July 7-10, 2016. Studies offered are on topics covering:
Spiritual Growth: The Bible & Human Sexuality
Geographic: Latin America
Social Issue: Climate Justice
For Youth/Children: Climate Justice

These studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of United Methodist Women in the fulfillment of the mission work of the church.



Also, Mission u is open to members as well as non-members of the United Methodist Women. Bring a friend!

Blessings,
Lana Siak

Mission Coordinator of Education & Interpretation.

“Sail into Spring” **Luncheon Fashion Show**

Imagine yourself at dinner on a cruise ship with the tables decked out in red, white and blue; in the center, lighthouses, sailboats, or bell-shaped jars with beach sand and shells. Had you been able to attend with the “sell-out” crowd at this very popular United Methodist Women mission fundraiser at First UMC, Clermont in the Wesley Center, you would have experienced just that. Sherrill McAllister was intrigued with Chef David’s exotic tropical blue beverage. She wasn’t the only one! Many attending purchased Opportunity Drawing tickets in hopes that they would go home with one of the many gift baskets which also included gift cards for restaurants, pedicures, manicures, massages, etc. Those attending looked at gift baskets displayed on several tables.

A sampling at the Silent Auction Table: tickets to Universal, silver Methodist cross necklace, gift cards from a variety of local restaurants displayed in a frame, Winter Garden Summer Theater Series/dinner at Alfredo’s and more. The photo corner was filled with friendly smiles and crazy hats. United Methodist Women member Glenda O’Connor, assisted by Linda Bunker, had a selection of crazy hats, odd wraps and glasses to wear for those who wanted a photo remembrance (free!). Pam Anders, United Methodist Women member, got her husband to the corner just before he was to begin his job as volunteer server. Note the crazy hat photographer Glenda chose for him! Pastor Dawn, our congregational care pastor, posed with her mom, sister and niece (3 generations)! Also Barb Reed, in charge of decorations, looks lovely in blue as she poses with her daughter. The sailboat centerpieces were made by Barb’s husband, Rich. Fashion Labels in Leesburg provided the fashions. Pastor Dawn, a very expectant first time mom-to-be, loves the top chosen for her!

Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women ~ “You will know them by their fruit” Matthew 7:20

April 2016



There were attractive outfits for all sizes and ages! Co-chairpersons, Lorna Broersma (bright red top) and Chris Zogg (anchor top) had a wonderful committee and many United Methodist Women members working together: Mimi Sanderlin, (red/white stripes) charity liaison is sitting with some of the board from Building Blocks Ministry including Jim Moody, Exec. Director; Sharon Ebbert model coordinator, Mary Jane Boatman & Jan Shultz, luncheon ticket sales; volunteers for the day, coordinator Carolyn Kohlenhoefer; drawing/auction, Carolyn Blankenship, Pat Hering and Kim Moles; and sponsorships Evelyn Rose. Also supporting this event were local businesses and individuals who were gold, silver, and bronze table sponsors. Proceeds from this event benefitted Building Blocks Ministry serving developmentally disabled adults (primarily) and Center Hill Children's Ministry serving at-risk children and on-going efforts on behalf of women, children, and youth. What a glorious time we had being the helping hands of our Lord and Savior!

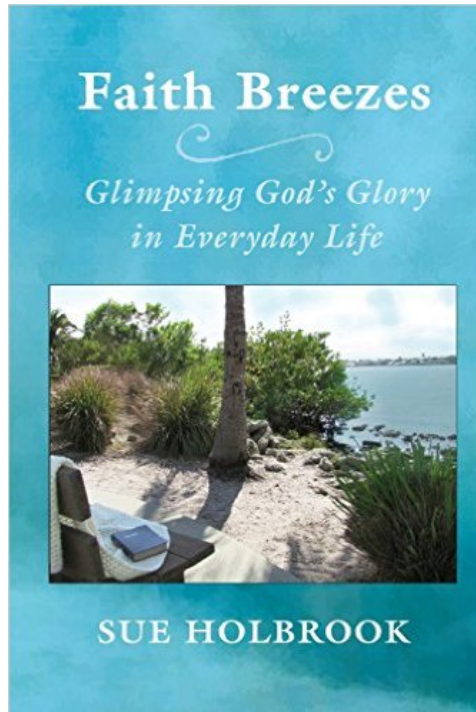
Friday, April 8th, checks were presented by co-chairpersons of event, Lorna Broersma and Chris Zogg, to Building Blocks Ministry representatives, David Hidalgo and Jim Moody, and to Center Hill Children's Mission representatives, Warren Smith and Betty Klein.



Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women ~ "You will know them by their fruit" Matthew 7:20

April 2016



United Methodist Women of First Winter Garden invites you to attend their Mother, Daughter and Friend celebration, Sunday, May 1st at 1:30 pm and enjoy Sue Holbrook's message, *Faith Breezes: Glimpsing God's Glory in Everyday Life*. As women of faith, our lives can become endless "to do" lists: each task important and worthwhile, but all of them together a constant struggle. *Faith Breezes* offers a series of small moments of refreshment—times of grace and stillness that can be savored without effort or expectations, in the midst of even the busiest day. "Faith breezes" are small reminders of God that caress our souls and reassure us that He is always near. Just as the breeze moves everything from the highest clouds to the lowest grains of sand, God's power breathes in all of the aspects of human life. No matter how delicate or gusty, a faith breeze always offers a glimpse of the awe-inspiring glory of God. From a grandchild's surprisingly profound remark to a Biblical passage that strikes right to the heart of a struggle, faith breezes come at the exact right moment to restore, reawaken, and reconnect us to God's love. A Lay Speaker in the Florida Conference of the United

Methodist Church for ten years, Sue Holbrook shares her own "faith breeze" moments in brief essays and offers pages on which readers can recall and savor their own. Both humorous and heartfelt, *Faith Breezes* is the perfect companion for women of faith seeking to deepen their connection with God despite busy days and myriad responsibilities.

Becky Loar will be captivating us with her beautiful singing, as well. Snacks will be offered afterwards.

First United Methodist Church of Winter Garden, 125 N. Lakeview Avenue, Winter Garden. Any questions can be directed to Suzy Nagy at SNagy0464@gmail.com

Five Units Study Latin America

Units from Bunnell, Flagler Beach, Palm Coast, Ormond by the Sea Riverview, and Ormond Beach Tomoka met March 21, 2016, in the Palm Coast fellowship hall, for their annual mission study, this year on *Latin America—People and Faith*.

Each unit presented information about the land and early peoples of South America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands. Sue Osmond from Bunnell reported on her mission trip to Ecuador as a nurse, and Doris Johnson from Riverview talked about her experiences while living part-time in Brazil. The women prepared Latin-inspired food for the lunch enjoyed by all. Palm Coast was the host for the day.

Greeting cards were signed and sent to eight missionaries in the Latin countries, and an offering taken for United Methodist Women supplemental giving to go to programs for women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Bunnell prepares to present their session, America in Plural.

Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women ~ "You will know them by their fruit" Matthew 7:20

April 2016

Latin America--People and Faith

Units from Bunnell, Flagler Beach, Palm Coast, Ormond by the Sea Riverview, and Ormond Beach Tomoka met March 21, 2016, in the Palm Coast fellowship hall, for their annual mission study, this year on *Latin America—People and Faith*.

Each unit presented information about the land and early peoples of South America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands. Sue Osmond from Bunnell reported on her mission trip to Ecuador as a nurse, and Doris Johnson from Riverview talked about her experiences while living part-time in Brazil. The women prepared Latin-inspired food for the lunch enjoyed by all. Palm Coast was the host for the day.

Greeting cards were signed and sent to eight missionaries in the Latin countries, and an offering taken for United Methodist Women supplemental giving to go to programs for women in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Participating in the study were, top row: Ormond Beach Tomoka. Second row: Rev. Joseph Kim from Riverview; Flagler Beach. Third row: Ormond by the Sea Riverview; Palm Coast who were hostesses for the day. Fourth row: Bunnell. Also shown are mementoes from visits to Latin America.

Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women ~ "You will know them by their fruit" Matthew 7:20

April 2016

Committee on Nominations Corner

The Committee has an important request of you - yes, every one of you! We are requesting your earnest prayers; that God would lay it upon someone special for a most important position for our East Central District. The Florida Conference United Methodist Women has recently reviewed all the districts and we were found to have overrun the tenure rules for a couple of positions. Foremost, we are seeking a candidate for Vice President. This position specifically entails being knowledgeable of the United Methodist Women and its Purpose. Being actively involved in the local unit or even at district level, but not having used your complete tenure, is a plus. This position requires a close working relationship with the District President and Leadership Team with accomplished leadership and computer skills. Please be in prayer for this special woman - possibly you!? Consider opening yourself up to God's leading - or asking a qualified woman who just needs some encouragement.

We do have two other leadership positions that must be filled. At our District Day Apart, Saturday April 16, at least 3 of our committee members will be in attendance. Please contact us. I welcome any calls/emails for questions or candidate recommendations. Pray hard, in His Name.

Celeste Hicks, Chair, Committee on Nominations

727-641-1106 cell#; 352-242-0979 (h) c3jrh57@gmail.com

LEADERS

What, Who, Whom, Where is a leader? Who is a leader? Am I a leader? Who do I lead? Where do I lead? These and many questions come to our mind when we think about leadership. Some of us get fearful or have thoughts of inadequacy. Congrats, you are human! You are not the first that feels that way. Many, I can say millions before you have been there; some are famous, publicly known while others quietly and silently are there.

When someone approaches you to lead suddenly an environment of insecurities and shock start to rise. You can break that inner insecurity. What about changing words?! Change, that's it! Change the word leader for servant. Servant is an easy word. John C. Maxwell said that leadership is for everyone. He said it based on the definition that leadership is influence. Let's remember a short story from the Bible about a servant woman named Tabitha, whose name in Greek was Dorcas. The Bible called her a disciple, Acts 9:36. There are no details about how, when or where she answered the call. There is no account if she prayed for a month or 3 years to verify Jesus's calling. Or, if she waited for a supernatural activity to feel secure to answer the call.

Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women ~ "You will know them by their fruit" Matthew 7:20

April 2016

The story tells us that she was full of good works and charitable deeds. These good works and deeds were shown to Peter. All the widows showed Peter the tunics and garments that Dorcas had made, Acts 9:39.

Dorcas had the ability and talent of sewing. She saw the need and she served to fulfill it. Dorcas and her widow friends got together to serve the poor, the widows, the fatherless. From her first work grew many Dorcas Sewing Societies worldwide. Edith Deen wrote that Dorcas' tool was a needle; her workshop was her home. But also she had desires, ideas, mercy, hope, love and faith that called for an action.

Remembering Dorcas' story does not mean that you are going to be noticed, known or famous. That is not the motivation or purpose. What I want to assure you is that you are a talented woman! You are talented because you have the image and nature of GOD. God does not send any child without gifts.

United Methodist Women gives you opportunities. It gives you a field of possibilities to put your love, hope and faith into action through the truth in Jesus Christ.

Maritza Lago , Committee on Nominations

References:

The Maxwell Leadership Bible Deen, Edith. All the Women of the Bible, Harper and Row, 1955.

Did you know? The Florida Conference United Methodist Women produces a newsletter quarterly call Genesis. You can sign up and have it emailed directly to you by visiting their webpage:

<http://flconfumw.org/>

At this time, when you visit the website, it may not seem clear how to sign up. But, on the bottom of the page is a registration box to sign up to their mailing list. Fill that out and you will start receiving Genesis and other announcements from them.

Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women ~ "You will know them by their fruit" Matthew 7:20

April 2016