



Dear Sisters in Christ,

The East Central Team thanks all of you that attended the Officers' training session on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was such joy to know that we had nearly ¾ of our units in attendance.

We want to assure you that we appreciated the feedback from our evaluation form. The number one issue seems to be you needed more time in the training sessions. We certainly will find a way to do that next time.

An interesting note here: Currently I am recording information from the Winter Garden United Methodist directories, a book for our history room. Back in the early '70s the January training was done with one training session in the daytime and another in an evening session. While that sounds like a good way to make sure everyone has a chance to attend, I'm not sure in this day and age it is possible.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> most important issue was a time to share with other units. When I first became a local leader on the executive committee in Winter Garden it was one of the reasons I attended so many district events. Most of the ideas we shared were done sitting around a table during a lunch period. You have an opportunity to do that at our Annual "Day Apart" event on April 16, at Grace United Methodist Church in Lake Mary. We hope to see you all there.

Blessings to you All

Linda Gustafson  
President of the East Central 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)**

The East Central District of the United Methodist Women is getting social! Visit our Facebook page, Like us and invite your friends!

[Women/](#)



[www.facebook.com/ecdUnitedMethodist](http://www.facebook.com/ecdUnitedMethodist)

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

**Newsletter for the East Central District Florida United Methodist Women**

**February 2016**



## Umbrellas?

What's with the umbrellas when there is obviously no rain? The pictures were taken at the district training for local officers and were sent to the United Methodist Women's national office to show our support for the effort to highlight the problem of human trafficking at the 2016 Super Bowl. Residents and travelers to the San Francisco Bay Area were outside the Super Bowl and on the streets with open umbrellas to "express our belief that we can help survivors of human trafficking live as whole persons" and to raise awareness of increased human trafficking at any event that attracts large numbers of fans. The pictures were displayed in the "Umbrella Line of Defense" around the stadium.

United Methodist Women have been active in the campaign to stop human trafficking for many years. The idea for this campaign is that "Under an umbrella, we are shielded from the storm and protected from the heat." This is what we must strive to do for those who are trafficked to clean hotel rooms, serve food, wash dishes or provide sex services. The East Central District United Methodist Women is looking for other ways that we can participate in projects aimed at preventing human trafficking and supporting those who are its victims. Please send your ideas to Jean Gritman at [jeangritman@aol.com](mailto:jeangritman@aol.com) or call me at (386) 445-0468.

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## THE CHALLENGE

Speak for the voiceless;  
Empower the bold;  
advocate for the infirmed  
And the old.

Strengthen the weary  
With encouraging care;  
incline your ear to a child's  
Soft voice to hear.

Filter the world's clutter – discerning;  
With wisdom's guidance – learning.  
Receive with humility; give with a generous heart,  
And all your endeavors with God's will start.

Ellen Wolking, January, 2016 for Leadership Training



The third Monday of each month is the designated day for the women of the Deltona United Methodist Women to meet, but January 18 was a very special day for this active group. As always, the afternoon began with a luncheon and some noisy fellowship. What followed was a beautiful and solemn ceremony to install a new slate of officers for 2016. These included a new president and treasurer, Lisa Oelschlager and Judy Robinson, and the return of Marian Kepler as secretary. The duties of the vice president are being shared by the entire executive team, so the coming year should bring some interesting programs.



Next on the agenda was the traditional January ritual of the Pledge to Mission program, with an emphasis on the different channels of giving, and the local programs in Volusia County that the unit works with. It was obvious that each member takes Acts 20:35 to heart and understands the 'blessings of giving.'

The January meeting finished with a great photo on the front steps of Barnett Memorial United Methodist Church. Each lady brought her umbrella and a big smile, but the ladies also remembered everything they've learned about human trafficking in recent months and know that we will need to double our efforts to "Intercept Human Trafficking."

In picture: (l to r) Lisa Oelschlager, president; Judy Robinson, treasurer; Marion Kepler, secretary; Esther Dobens, program resources; Shirley Walker, spiritual growth; Jean Beard, membership. (Background) Nancy Siebert, social action.

Submitted by Lisa Oelschlager

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November 14, 2015 marked the date for the 5th Annual Holiday Bazaar, which is sponsored by the Coronado Community United Methodist Church's United Methodist Women, 201 S. Peninsula Avenue, New Smyrna Beach. The event highlighted numerous shopping venues including: Cook's Corner & Mama's Pantry, Great Gifts, Baubles & Bling, Stocking Stuffers, Pots & Plants, Home Décor, Hostess with the Mostest, and It's a Wrap (gift bags). The Zoo Zone featured gently-loved stuffed animals. There was also a silent auction displaying a variety of fabulous gift baskets. Refreshments available in the Corner Café included sumptuous chicken salad croissants and hot dogs. The Kid Zone was a free play area for children offering free crafts to keep them busy.

Shoppers browsed among unique and handcrafted items including jewelry and home décor, and savored homemade treats such as vanillas, cookies and candies. Handmade gift bags, tags, cards and wine bags completed their holiday shopping experience.

The Fifth Annual Holiday Bazaar was chaired by Kristi Rohan and was the most successful Holiday Bazaar ever, enabling the United Methodist Women to expand their budget for missions, etc.

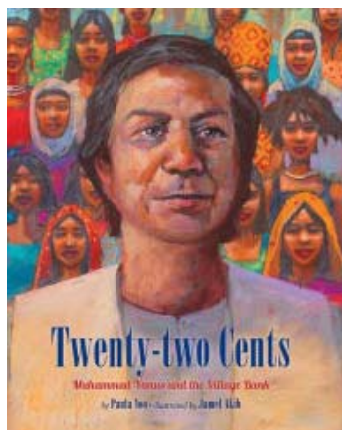
Submitted by Marion Owen



# Trumpet Sound~



(A mother's influence made mission possible!)



During the District Training Event I stopped by the Literature Tables and I saw two copies of the book *Twenty-two Cents*. At the end of the event there were still two books. Earlier that day I had mentioned to our District Secretary of Program Resources, Yvonne Lorah, that it was a very good book and a quick read and maybe someone should write a Book Review for the *Trumpet Sound* Newsletter. I am sure you have heard the expression “Be careful what you ask for.” Well, Yvonne suggested that I should write a book review.

Although I am an avid and fast reader, I am not a writer, but I really liked *Twenty-two Cents*. It is a larger print book of 40 pages and can be read cover to cover in just a few minutes.

If you are a mother (biological or otherwise), how often have you “shown” children ways they can give to others and not just “tell” them? This is how the biography of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Muhammad Yunus, begins.

At a young age Muhammad was determined to make a difference in the lives of many. Growing up in Bangladesh, he witnessed extreme poverty all around and was determined to eradicate it. As an Economics professor, Muhammad met a young craftswoman in the village of Jobra who needed to borrow five taka (twenty-two cents) to buy materials. No bank would lend such a small amount to an uneducated woman, so she was forced to borrow from corrupt lenders who charged an unfair interest rate, and left her without enough profit to buy food.

Muhammad realized that what stood in the way of her financial security was just a few cents. Inspired, he founded Grameen Bank where people could borrow small amounts of money to start a job, and then pay back the bank without exorbitant interest charges. Over the next few years, his compassion and determination changed the lives of millions of people by loaning the equivalent of more than ten billion U.S. dollars in micro-credit. This has also served to advocate and empower the poor, especially women, who often have limited options. *Twenty-two Cents* is an inspiring story of economic innovation and a celebration of how one person—like one small loan—can make a positive difference in the lives of many.

I encourage you to read about the Village Bank and more in this “Education for Mission” category book.

(Please remember that United Methodist Women mission studies can be used for Reading Program Credit.)

Submitted by Joyce Waldon Bright

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Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the First Winter Garden United Methodist Women will be holding their Spring Rummage Sale. All proceeds go to support missions for women, children, and youth around the year. Please join us from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at 125 N. Lakeview Avenue, Winter Garden. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Suzy Nagy



# Trumpet Sound~



## Right Under My Nose

Could you imagine finding out one of your closest friends is a victim of human trafficking? What would you do? This happened to Katie\* recently. Here's her story:

I have been interested in learning more about human trafficking for a while, so when *Florida Abolitionist* held a community training, I was eager to attend. However, I never anticipated that what I would learn would save the life of a good friend.

My heart started racing as I heard the ways human traffickers lure and control their victims. I kept picturing Rachel\* in my mind because so many of the red flags mentioned were true of her. I had recently helped her get away from her abusive boyfriend but until the training, I didn't grasp the extent of it. She was often unable to freely go when and where she wanted. Even though she was working, she rarely had much money and worked odd hours. She was also very secretive about how she was spending her time and her boyfriend seemed very controlling. Could it be that she was a victim of human trafficking???

When I left the training my mind raced with questions but the biggest was, "How will I bring this up with Rachel?" With fear and a burning desire to help my friend, I asked Rachel difficult questions. As we talked, I found out that Rachel was, in fact, a victim of trafficking. Her boyfriend had become her trafficker.

Then I called *Florida Abolitionist*. Their victim advocate met with us and Rachel recounted the horrors she had experienced. I was happy to help her, but was devastated to hear the details. I couldn't believe this happened right under my nose. With their help, Rachel is now away from her trafficker and is pressing charges. They are also continuing to make sure Rachel receives all the care and support that she needs to begin healing.

I am proof that human trafficking can happen anywhere to anyone. I am so grateful for *Florida Abolitionist* and am more motivated than ever to do all I can to help end modern-day slavery.

Submitted by Alma Manney



# Trumpet Sound~



## REMEMBER “The Disappeared” in Latin America

The photo below is the segment at FUMC, Clermont, United Methodist Women on the many that disappeared during “The Dirty Wars” under a repressive government in Argentina from 1976-83. Can you imagine you are away from home, you return to find your daughter or son missing and your husband lying dead on the floor? These were your children, kidnapped, never to be seen again. A group of grandmothers, Association Civil Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo (Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo,) banded together and through their perseverance and efforts located grandchildren born to their “disappeared” children. Where did they find their grandchildren? Another group was Association Madres de Plaza de Mayo (Mothers of Plaza de Mayo) whose children disappeared. This is just one small part of the “Latin America People and Faith” Mission Study held on Sat., Jan. 31st. Other parts of the program included DVD’s on Latin American culture, history and women in their society; guest speakers sharing their mission experiences in Honduras last year; food included Cuban pastries, Puerto Rican “Cuban” bread, hearty Venezuelan chicken/vegetable soup and Chaja, a dessert popular in Uruguay; action freewill offering to help Honduran mission where one of our speakers volunteered; and much more on the program agenda. There were over 45 attending, including members from two other churches and how pleased we were that East Central District President, Linda Gustafson, joined us!



## Have RESPONSE, Will Travel

Remember the small print on page 45 of the October *Response*, at the top titled “Attend Leadership Development Days,” Jan. 8-10 in Lake Junaluska, NC. Vice President, Pam Anders of United Methodist Women at FUMC, Clermont, did. She let United Methodist Women Leadership Team know she was going and had room for three more. Sharon Kowalski, President and Lorna Broersma, Chairperson Committee on Nominations, both installed in Dec. 2015, committed to the trip too! The fourth was Pam’s husband who chauffeured this “distinguished group” and visited relatives while they were busy meeting new United Methodist Women members through the US, from Alaska to Key West, and attending classes of their choice. Look at photo with Yvette Kim Richards, United Methodist Women president, at the end of our last worship session together. Sharon was suffering from respiratory problems and not well enough to sit in for the conclusion of LDD.

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Attending Leadership Development Days was similar to a mini-United Methodist Women General Assembly but with fewer people attending. There were 210 at Junaluska, in addition to our United Methodist Women national leaders. Here Lorna and Pam “smile” with Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary United Methodist Women and Rosemary Uebel, member National Human Trafficking Task Force. Rosemary, from St. Petersburg, FL., had just finished a “panel session” where we learned of the history and background on United Methodist Women’s partnership with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), that began right here in Florida. Our group was familiar with it due to participation in 2014 Mission u, “standing up” for CIW in front of Publix on S. Florida Ave. in Lakeland, FL. Not pictured was a class facilitator from Florida: Judith Pierre-Okerson, Miami, who taught “Standing in our Faith.” Judith’s native country is Haiti and she is Chair, Governance Committee, at the national level of United Methodist Women.

Another interesting part of Leadership Development Days (LDD) was hearing about the work of Andrea Reily Rocha Soares, supported by United Methodist Women. Andrea serves as the main connection to leadership development for women on health, empowerment, and gender issues throughout Latin America. Her native country is Brazil. How we wished that she could have been guest speaker at our Latin American Mission Study later in January! Note Sharon in yellow was feeling well enough to join us for this session.



#### Need New Installation Service?

United Methodist Women’s vice president from FUMC, Clermont, completing three years of service and soon-to-begin year four, felt a strong nudge from God that a change in the usual Installation Service was due. A research trip to the United Methodist Women’s Website, key word “Installation,” offered her a variety of themes that could be tailored to the needs of their Leadership Team. The “eye catcher” was “Rainbow of Colors,” symbolized by flowers. Each team member’s responsibilities involved a specific color of flower and an explanation of how the color represented her role. Flowers of many colors are easy to find in local Dollar stores, but if December is your month for Installation, begin looking for the flowers before December when red, white, silver and gold take over the flower display area. Pastor Dawn Carter, Congregational Care Pastor at FUMC, presided over the Installation. We regret that our Secretary of Program Resources was unable to attend. Her bouquet was “white” to represent the white pages in the many wonderful books in our Reading Program.



## Clermont United Methodist Women and Mission Team Partner to Welcome GBGM Missionary



January was a very busy month! FUMC, Clermont Mission Team and United Methodist Women held a church wide event for Jonathan McCurley and his wife Satomi to present the work being done at the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Japan. The Wednesday night session was held in the Wesley Center. Jonathan began with a short DVD of the history of ARI, teaching sustainable living and peaceful negotiation to participants from mostly Africa and Asia. Then, it was on with slides of ARI and

Japan, explaining in his passionate manner. He and Satomi concluded with some Japanese songs that also involved audience participation. The photo shows a smaller event at the home of their host family planned for Mission Team Members (also United Methodist Women members) who were unable to attend Wednesday night.

Submitted by Pam Anders

The First United Methodist Church of Oviedo's Daughters of Eve Circle has been very busy the past few months. These wonderful ladies spent time working the annual Whale of a Sale, organizing and restocking shelves at The Vine Thrift Shop - The Forgotten Ones (a United Methodist Women mission) and assembling and packaging toiletries that were distributed to both The Vine Thrift Shop and the Lawton Angels Backpack Program (also a 2016 United Methodist Women mission).





### Come Meet the Author

Deb Richardson-Moore, Pastor/Director, Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, SC, author of our 2016 Reading Program book, *The Weight of Mercy: A Novice Pastor on the City Streets*, will be visiting Flagler Beach the weekend of March 11-13. The Flagler Beach unit will hold its annual United Methodist Women Sunday, March 13th, and Pastor Deb will speak at both services—8:30 and 11:00 am. The United Methodist Women's unit will serve at Café Fellowship between the services.

Saturday, March 12, the United Methodist Women's unit will hold a reception for her from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, and invites the other units in the East Central District to attend, plus anyone else who would like to meet her.

This is your invitation to attend the reception and United Methodist Women Sunday, as you are able.

Deb's book is an honest look at the complications and difficulties surrounding her first years of ministry to homeless men and women suffering from mental illness, crack addictions, and alcoholism. At the same time, it is a humorous and deeply touching account of God's grace manifested in the most remarkable of ways, whether in the inadvertent befriending of a mugger or in the unexpected witnessing of an addict tenderly washing another's wounded foot.

To order Deb's book, *The Weight of Mercy*, order online at: <http://debrichardsonmoore.com/>

If you plan to attend, please give me the number from your unit so we will have adequate refreshments.

Carol Elliott, president, 386-439-2094 or [carole2094@bellsouth.net](mailto:carole2094@bellsouth.net)

Flagler Beach United Methodist Women

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SEATS & FEETS 2016

The United Methodist Women of Sanlando United Methodist Church in Longwood held their annual Seats & Feets collection and were able to distribute underwear and socks to boys and girls at six elementary schools in the Seminole County area. There were over 1400 individual items donated and we were blessed to be able to deliver them to so many grateful teachers and principals. Sanlando is so blessed to be a part of this much-needed ministry.

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## The Church that Soup Built

First United Methodist Church of Winter Garden's United Methodist Women Circle of Hope held their sixth annual "Souper Sunday" January 24th with the sale of delicious homemade soup.

On a cold Sunday morning in East Central Florida 175 16oz. servings of soup were delivered by the Circle of Hope to the church family.



Over the past five years the United Methodist Women's Circle of Hope ladies have been making and selling soup for one of the church's partner churches, the "Impact of God" Methodist Church in Velasco, Holguin, Cuba. This church, one soup sale at a time, has been transformed and benefits from the generosity of the making and selling of soup to the congregation in Winter Garden. When this was explained to our translator, now coordinator in Cuba, Aylen Font Marrero, she named the church, "the church that soup built". The small

church's largest and most active group is the Methodist Women (Las Damas). The church was visited by Winter Garden's Rafael Rivera, Greg Harford and Pastor Rusty Belcher in May, 2015.



The generous gifts received from the sale of soup have renovated the kitchen of the Temple/parsonage, provided for the doubling of the Temple's worship space, fans and pews for worship, and a restroom for the church. The sale of Vegetable soup, White Chicken Chili and Corn Chowder will give Pastor Daniel Vidal Cala and his spouse Pastora Jenny Basto Suarez the opportunity in 2016 to repair and replace the wooden windows on the parsonage (Casa Pastoral). This will allow them to secure the home and church that they and the Methodist Women (Las Damas) are so proud of. Thank you to the creative soup makers of the Winter Garden Unit!

Hello, with love in Jesus' name! Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" and again, and yet again!

And so it is the Committee is asking, will you serve? Will you serve United Methodist Women as we in turn serve and support women, children, and youth in Jesus' name?

The District Committee on Nominations needs your input and willingness to make known your abilities and talents. God blesses us with so much and graces us with that much more.....

Are you ready to step out in love and faith and give back to Him? Yes, maybe out of your comfort zone, yes, maybe because you're already busy!!!! Think about it and pray about it even more! Let's open up and show God's love to each other wherever we can, yes!!!! even on the District Team.

Thank you for all you do - that's our job! To do all we can, wherever we can, as long as we can – 'til His glorious return.

However you can contact us - phone or email, we are here. We'd love to hear from you!

Celeste Hicks, Diane Abresky, Christine Whinstanley, Maritza Lago, Lynn Campbell

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Food for Thought as we meditate during this season of Lent. This is reprinted from February's issue of *Response* written by the Rev. Judith Santiago from Isaiah 52 and 61 (p. 12)

Beauty for Ashes  
I bestow upon you, Beauty for ashes.  
I bestow upon you: The oil of joy.  
I bestow upon you: Garments of praise.

You shall fear no more, fear no more.

You don't have to look behind you any more.  
Don't relieve the pain.  
Awake! Oh daughter. Awake! Oh Zion.  
Clothe yourself with My strength!

Put on your garments of splendor.  
The defiled will not enter you again.  
Shake off the dust.  
Free yourself from the chains that bind your neck.

For I have called you for an appointed time,  
to heal the broken as I have healed thee,  
to proclaim liberty, give sight to the blind.

Arise, arise and shine!!

For I rebuilt the ancient ruins in you.  
Yes, I will restore the places long destroyed.  
Instead of your pain you'll receive double portion.  
Instead of disgrace you will rejoice.

For I, the Lord, love justice.  
I, the Lord, loveth thee.  
Lift up your heads all my fair ones.  
Rise up!  
Show my glory!

I bestow upon you: Beauty for ashes.  
I bestow upon you: The oil of joy.  
I bestow upon you: Garments of praise.

You shall fear no more.  
Fear no more.  
Fear no more.



## **EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LEADERSHIP TEAM 2016 - 2017**

### **President**

Linda Gustafson                      FUMC - Winter Garden  
Lindag65@cfl.rr.com

### **Secretary**

Judith Smith McNorton                      Faith - Orlando  
hway55@live.com

### **Treasurer**

Mary Ann Murray                      Christ - Sanford  
maryann2936@aol.com

### **Committee on Nominations, Chair – Class of 2017**

Celeste Hicks                      FUMC - Clermont  
c3jrh57@gmail.com

### **Committee on Nominations, Class of 2016**

Lynn Campbell                      FUMC - Winter Garden  
lzdccamp1951@gmail.com

### **Education & Interpretation 2016**

Lana Siak                      Faith - Orlando  
fcsiak@aol.com

### **Social Action 2016**

Jean Gritman                      Palm Coast  
jeangritman@aol.com

### **Committee on Nominations, Class of 2016**

Ladye M. Cox                      Grace - Lake Mary  
ladyebug625@yahoo.com

### **Committee on Nominations, Class of 2017**

Diane Abresky                      Community of Faith - Davenport  
dabresky@gmail.com

### **Committee on Nominations, Class of 2018**

Christine Whinstanley                      Palm Coast  
cawhin@yahoo.com

### **Committee on Nominations, Class of 2019**

Maritza Lago                      Christ, Hispanic - Orlando  
mlago462@gmail.com

### **Committee on Nominations, Class of 2019**

Evelyn Rose                      FUMC - Clermont  
dcrose1168@aol.com

### **Communications Coordinator 2016**

Suzy Nagy                      FUMC - Winter Garden  
Snagy0464@gmail.com

### **Secretary of Program Resources 2016**

Yvonne Lorah                      Broadway Orlando  
yglorah@earthlink.net