

Trumpet Sound



Dear Sisters,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What a fellowship and what a joy it was to join so many women at First UMC of Winter Garden for our Membership Event.

First we heard from two amazing women who between them can boast of about 85 years (or even more) of service with United Methodist Women. They shared their highlights and some low points as they served our women, children and youth. At the time they held down jobs and had small children. Then we heard from two exciting young ladies that having small children was one of the common bonds which brought over thirty young women together to form a circle in their unit. So while things change – yet they remain the same.

Coming out of that gathering I have heard that conversations have begun going forward. So what do we do now? I believe the work has just begun. Be mindful of who is around you, women you come in contact with even at church. It was easily established that women will become part of United Methodist Women if someone INVITES them. That seems so easy, but it is one we all miss. Often times I think we believe that someone else had already issued an invitation, and that may be true, but our invitation just might be the thing to help that seed which was planted before.

As we approach this season of Lent and then Easter (oh yes, it is right around the corner friends) I pray for you opportunities to meet our Lord wherever and however. Look for your “aha” “holy” moments and be reminded that our “mission” work begins right now, right here.

So may the Lord watch between you and me, until we meet again.

With love and grace,

Lynn

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

March 21, 2015...Spring Day Apart (Riverview UMC)

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 (TBA)

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Can You help? From Linda Gustafson, Vice President of East Central District



How excited I was at our September 2014 meeting: We left with every event having a committed Church—that is every event with the exception of our Annual Meeting. I realize this event has a little more responsibility to it, but I have witnessed many units have their dedicated team make the job really look easy. It is February and most of our Church's calendars are filled up, so I feel desperation setting in. We are in need of a church able to seat at least 120 ladies for lunch. Lunch can be catered and figured in to the cost of the event so it will not be a burden to the unit. We do need to have the event in the center of our District if at all possible. If you can fill this responsibility, please call Linda Gustafson, 407-877-3099. I will be waiting breathlessly for your call!



"SPRING DAY APART". March 21, 2015. 10:00 am to 2:00pm

Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

Bring a bag lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided.

At Riverview Methodist Church in Ormond-by-the-Sea.

2253 John Anderson Dr. 32176

Speaker Deaconess Mary Melvin

Theme "Seeking God in the Silence" Psalms 62:1.

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION OR CHARGE, BUT YOU DO NEED TO RSVP AND INDICATE
NEED FOR CHILDCARE BY 03/14

CALL OR EMAIL SUZY NAGY 407-617-0779 SNagy0464@gmail.com

UNIT PRESIDENTS! Please mark your calendars for the
President's Tea Saturday, May 23rd from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church in Lake Mary.

Each unit is required to send their president or representative (only one person from each unit)

Join the ECD United Methodist Women Mission Team for a day to refresh your soul.

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United Methodist Women District Meeting ~ Young Members Event

What makes a United Methodist Women's Circle worth the time? What difference does UMW make in the world? These are some of the questions considered at the January District Membership Event held in Winter Garden. The focus of the meeting was on gaining insight into attracting recently retired ladies and ladies under 40.

Led by our president, Lynn Campbell, the meeting was joyful and informative. In the first session Alma Manney and Ladye Cox told their stories of how they became involved with United Methodist Women and where this involvement has led them in the intervening years.

After a break and refreshments, the second session featured talks by Shannon Bouley and Delinah DuBose from Grace Circle at Sanlando United Methodist Church. Formed under the leadership of Kirsten Germana after her pastor approached her about starting a young women's group, it evolved into a circle which attracts younger ladies by meeting at workable times, offering interesting guest speakers, and keeping them involved in outreaches that speak to their hearts.

A panel discussion with all four speakers allowed time for questions and further thoughts about the challenges of membership.

At the end of the meeting attendees (ladies with an average age of 68) filled out a survey and responded to questions about the problems they see in attracting new members and any solutions they saw. The respondents' answers placed an emphasis on attracting younger women.



Some of the problems that were brought up included:

- a need for child care (especially for single mothers),
- meeting times and lengths,
- older ladies who made younger ones feel intimidated, unwelcome, or as though they were having too much fun,
- a lack of time and energy,
- and, boring general meetings.

Ideas for solving the problems included:

- providing more childcare,
- having more technology involved in our outreach,
- allowing groups to begin as social meetings and then evolve into mission groups,
- educating older members on how to be more open to the efforts of newer members,
- having programs with a spiritual component that also addresses the needs of younger women,



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- having convenient meeting times,
- and, soliciting from the younger ladies ideas for programs and activities.

Linda Gustafson at lindag65@cfl.rr.com may be contacted by any unit that would like to see the full survey.

Many of the respondents said they joined United Methodist Women for the fellowship. As our president commented, "Fellowship can lead to mission."

United Methodist Women Seats & Feet Annual Underwear and Sock Collection

More than 1,400 items were donated during the Sanlando United Methodist Women two week collection of new socks and underwear for elementary students at nearby Seminole County Public Schools. The annual "Seats & Feet" collection grew out of the need for students who come to school without these items. The generosity of the congregation will benefit students at Pinecrest, Sable, Woodlands and Hamilton elementary schools.



The Riverview United Methodist Church members of Riverview's United Methodist Women crocheted Mats for Humanity. All church members saved and recycled their plastic grocery bags for the project. The mats will be distributed to the homeless by Halifax Urban Ministries.

First United Methodist Church of Oviedo United Methodist Women Women's Night of Fellowship introduces 2015 New Mission February 10, 2015 – Restoration Ministries for Women – Transforming Lives & Bringing Families Together Through the Love of CHRIST. Keynote Speaker, Joyce Hartsfield, introduces 76 United Methodist Women and guest to the Christ-centered organization that began in 1998. R.M. for Women's Mission is to teach formerly incarcerated women, and women battling substance abuse the Biblical principles to guide them to building new lives. www.rmwchanginglives.org



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Nominations Corner

United Methodist Women, a Prophetic Organization

The hymn, "Many Gifts, One Spirit" #114 in the *United Methodist Hymnal*, was commissioned for the Assembly of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries in 1973. Rev. Al Carmines wrote the hymn. Rev. Carlton Young, editor of the *United Methodist Hymnal*, noted that this hymn "is one of the first texts to express the unity, creativity and witness of the Spirit within our diversity of human gifts and conditions in completely inclusive language with respect to both people and deity."

*"As the old ways disappear,
let your love cast out our fear."*

The refrain focuses on "one Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word" that unites us in our diversity. The oneness that we share in God "hallows" our days. In the Wesleyan sense of perfection, as we move toward the Holy One, God's image is increasingly reflected in us. Carmines tells us that this image is rich in its diversity—infinately varied and colorful.

Little did we know that so many of the old ways would disappear, yet our PURPOSE as an organization has remained the same. We have been offered the flexibility to do things differently with the same goal in mind.

United Methodist Women, a prophetic organization calls your name.

United Methodist Women Committees on Nominations in local churches, districts, conferences and jurisdictions are seeking women who are willing to say, "Here I am, Lord.... I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart." We need you to say "yes."

If you are interested in serving as a leader in the East Central District United Methodist Women or if you would like to recommend someone, please contact your District Committee on Nominations at ec.umwvp@yahoo.com or 407 208 1300.

Did you read something written about one of our local units? See a mission related video about women, children and youth? We would love to share this information with the ECD women. For instance, Lynn shared that PBS was airing a documentary called "A Path Appears". One of the episodes was about an activist fighting for women's rights. You don't have to write an article just indicate what you saw or read and where you saw it. Send this information to SNagy0464@gmail.com

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How Is It
with
Your Soul?



Monday, January 19, at Flagler Beach United Methodist Church Pastor Jeanine Clontz led the United Methodist Women Mission Study, *How Is It with Your Soul?* Twenty women and two men attended the four-hour session to learn how to become a more vibrant disciple of Christ through prayer, learning, mentoring and transformation. The study was sponsored by the local unit United Methodist Women who also provided lunch for the group.



*We want to hear about what your unit is doing.
Presidents, please send articles and pictures to
Suzy Nagy at SNagy0464@gmail.com*