

# UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

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2013

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## Announcing 2014 Officers As Elected on November 14<sup>th</sup>

**President:** Jackie Montgomery  
**Vice President:** Janna Christenson  
**Recording Secretary:** Sue Brown  
**Asst. Recording Sec.:** Patti Hatfield  
**Treasurer:** Wanda Myers

### Mission Coordinators:

**Spiritual Growth:** Brenda Anderson-  
Baker

**Membership & Outreach:** Jen Smith

**Social Action:** Patti Hatfield

**Educ. & Interp.:** Gloria Zimmer

**Sec. of Program Res.:** Rachel Jarvis

### **Nominating Committee:**

Virginia Manseau (2014)  
Nettie Warwood (2014)  
Lee Allinger (2016)  
Elaine Smith (2016)

**Publicity/UMW Voice:** Dana Doney

**CWU Representative:** Cecilia Tank

**Historians:** Cecilia Tank  
Lois Adams

## *Outside the Box: The Gift That Can't Be Contained*

*All women are invited to join us for a thoughtful beginning to the Christmas season at our annual **Advent Program & Brunch General Meeting on December 4th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room.***

*The morning will begin with a brunch served by Miriam-Ruth Circle, followed by officer installation, World Thank Offering, and Special Mission Recognition.*

*Janna Christenson will then present the Advent program : "Outside the Box: The Gift That Can't Be Contained."*

## *Changes Underway...*

With the new CHIMES format that was introduced last month, we are faced with the new challenge of how to get the UMW Voice into the hands of all our BUMC women. Hopefully, most of you will be receiving it electronically. It is also available on the BUMC website. Others can be mailed directly and we will try to have copies available for pickup at the church. **If it is not reaching you in your preferred manner, please contact Jackie at 586-2526.**

While change is hard, it isn't all bad. I hope you will like our new colorful look inspired by the revamped CHIMES. The Voice will be doing some evolving over the next few months while we work out all the kinks between design and delivery to catch up with the changes in the CHIMES.

I'm confident that this forced change will make the VOICE better in the end by making us think more creatively. I welcome your input so please don't hesitate to contact me with your comments/suggestion! Call me at 570-5444 or email at dana.doney@gmail.com.

—Dana Doney, Editor

## *Special thanks to outgoing and transitioning officers for completing their commitment:*

Wanda Myers—Recording Secretary  
Rachel Jarvis—Treasurer  
Martha Hendricks—Sec. of Program Resources & Nominations  
Jeannie Haight—Nominations

*We appreciate your hard work!*



## Circle News

**Noon Luncheon Group** will be holding their annual Advent program at their December 5th Luncheon. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Martha Hendricks at 586-6389.

## Upcoming Meetings



<b>Advent Program &amp; General Meeting</b>	Wednesday, Dec. 4th, 9:30 a.m.	Friendship Room
	Brunch at 9:30, followed by brief business meeting and Advent program.	
<b>Noon Luncheon Group</b>	Thursday, Dec. 5th, 12:00-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium
<b>Mission Team Meeting</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.	Friendship Room
<b>Newly Retired Group</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 17th, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
<b>Miriam-Ruth Circle</b>	Wednesday, Dec. 18th, 10-11:30 a.m.	Conference Room
<b>Trinity Circle</b>	Wednesday, Dec. 18th, 1:15 p.m.	TBD

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF UMW MISSION PROJECTS!

Rachel Jarvis, Treasurer, reports **pledges over \$8,000 for the 2014 budget of Bozeman UMW!** That is a wonderful response! And, a quarter of that amount has already been given, allowing for a continuing payment schedule to Pledge to Mission and to conference and local partner groups providing programs, personnel, and institutions to help many around the world.

**Because of this solid support, the Bozeman UMW Mission Team approved the 2014 Budget totaling \$9,705 of which \$7,150 is earmarked to be paid directly to mission giving.** The remainder,

including a new addition of \$200 for mailing "UMW Voice" to members not using the Internet, covers administrative costs and leadership/learning opportunities.

**The annual World Thank Offering, spontaneous contributions sponsored by the organization since 1881, will be collected at the December 4th Advent Brunch and Program.** This special offering is one of several additional paths of giving supported locally for approximately **\$2500 per year.** Mission priorities include leadership development, education and training; health care

and nutrition; nonviolent conflict resolution; economic development; assistance for refugees, displaced persons and children of war; poverty; help for exploited children; and gender-justice training for women and youth.

Mission Giving begins small with individual pledges and gifts, but like yeast in bread dough, it grows and provides for many ... so, thank you to all for prayers, willing hands, and financial gifts to minister to women, youth, and children around the world.

—Jackie Montgomery  
President

## Spiritually Speaking...

Christmas is coming. The catalogs are arriving, the stores are decorated, and visions of triple-chocolate cranberry cookies are dancing in my head. I start thinking about the insane pressure created by this holiday. I start thinking about the things I think I *have* to do. I start looking at my December calendar, ready to rail against the Christmas machine. And then, really? I just get bored by the thought of it.

Not the thought of Christmas. I love many things about Christmas: candlelight worship, the Light in the darkness, the peace and promise of Immanuel, God with us. I love Advent too: the anticipation, the lights, the love and goodwill. What I get bored with is the idea of turning Christmas into either a festival of over-ness—overspending, overeating, overdoing—or a militant stance against the excess of the season. Both feel like more effort than they're worth.

Part of it is that I'm tired; it's been a hectic autumn, and I can't summon up the energy to get into a snit about it. Part of it is that I'm really looking forward to spending some time this month with my sister doing big-city, Christmas-y things so I'm not feeling Grinchy about the commercialism. And maybe part of it—dare I say it?—is that I feel like I'm learning to trust God to help me learn how to trust myself.

When I really listen to what God is saying to me, when I bring God the things that are going on in my life and ask for help, sometimes I hear answers. God helps me hear the deepest longings of my heart, whether that longing is for more stillness or more community, for patience or action. There's a practice in Ignatian spirituality called the examen. It's really very simple: looking back at my day, week, month, or year, I identify the situations that brought me life and love, the times when I felt closer to God. Similarly, I notice the things that seemed to move me farther away from God. When I trust that God wants me to draw closer and wants me to spend time and energy on those things that bring me life and love, it's easier to make better choices in my life and listen more clearly to the true longings of my heart, which I believe, are God's longings as well.

*Loving God, in this busy season and in all the busy seasons of our lives, remind us to slow down enough so we can hear the whispers of your voice that lead us to understand your will for our lives, that lead us to know your true light in our darkness.*

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,  
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

