

# UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

February  
2014

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## A Big "THANK YOU" from BUMW President, Jackie Montgomery

Thank you for so generously pledging financial support for the work of Bozeman United Methodist Women in 2014!

If you are planning to give quarterly, you might remind yourself to do so in February, May, August, and November. That will allow our unit to forward pledge amounts in a timely manner to Western Mountains District.

If you would like a receipt for prepaid pledge amounts in 2013 for income tax purposes, please request one from Treasurer, Wanda Myers, at 587-3511. Pledge payments may be mailed to her at 1201 Highland Blvd., A-206, Bozeman, MT 59715.



## Reminder: Feb. 5th Program "Gallatin College: Mission, Vision, & Future" 1:00 p.m., BUMC Friendship Room

Featuring **Bob Hietala**, BUMC member and Dean of the newly formed Gallatin College. Bring your spouse, friends, community members...all are welcome!

## UMW Annual Chili Feed/Bake Sale Teams Up With BUMC Talent Show, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>

This year, our annual UMW Chili Feed/Bake Sale fundraiser will be held in conjunction with the annual BUMC Talent Show. Several types of chili will be served with all the fixings beginning at 5:00 p.m. (A free will offering will be taken for dinner.) Delectable desserts and/or take-home items can be purchased from the Bake Sale. Then plan to attend the fabulous Talent Show at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

ceeds from this event go to support many different missions projects. Your help is needed to make this event a success!

We need help preparing and serving the chili, and donations of baked goods to sell. There are ways for everyone to participate and we only need a couple of hours of your time. If you have not signed up at a UMW small group meeting and would like to help at this fun event contact me, Janna Christensen at:

This is an important fundraiser which our UMW sponsors each year and the pro-

[jannapfeil@yahoo.com](mailto:jannapfeil@yahoo.com) or call 586-3296.



## Circle News

**Evening Circle** will be meeting as usual for dinner at 5:30 on January 27th, but will then attend Dave's talk on the Book of Discipline & Homosexuality in lieu of the regular program at 7:00 p.m.

**Noon Luncheon Group** will have Laura Young presenting a program on Native American Flutes at their February 27th meeting.

## Upcoming Meetings



<b>UMW General Meeting</b>	Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 1:00 p.m.	Friendship Room
<b>Mission U</b>	February 7-8	Grace UMC Billings
<b>Mission Team Meeting</b>	Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Friendship Room
<b>Ink Spots Card-making</b>	Monday, Feb. 17th, 1:00 p.m.	Kathy Peyton's home
<b>Newly Retired Group</b>	Tuesday, Feb. 18th, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
<b>Miriam-Ruth Circle</b>	Wednesday, Feb. 19th, 10:00 a.m.	Conference Room
<b>Trinity Circle</b>	Wednesday, Feb. 19th, 1:15 p.m.	TBD
<b>Chili Feed/Bake Sale</b>	Saturday, Feb. 22nd 5:00 p.m.	Friendship Room
<b>Evening Circle</b>	Monday, Feb. 24th, 5:30-8:00 p.m.	Conference Room
<b>Noon Luncheon Group</b>	Thursday, Feb. 27th, 12:00-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium



*Who wouldn't want to be your Valentine when you bake them up a batch of these delicious, soft, sugar cookies!*

### **Grandma Linda's Frosted Sugar Cookies**

1 Cup Shortening (Can use butter, but won't be as soft)	Blend shortening and sugar.
1 Cup Sugar	Add in sour cream, then eggs, and vanilla. Gradually add in dry ingredients. Roll dough out on a floured surface to about 3/8 inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters and place on un-greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 9-12 minutes. Let cool completely before frosting.
1 Cup Sour Cream	
2 Eggs	
1/2 Tbsp. Vanilla	
3 Cups Flour	
1 tsp. Baking Powder	
1 tsp. Soda	



### **Prayer Challenge**

*We all know people who are in need of prayer... but what about every one else...? Aren't we all in need of prayer?*

*The purpose of this prayer challenge is to identify someone, a couple, or a family, to include in your daily prayers. Don't stop praying for those you know are in need of prayer, or those dear to you, but just add a random person/persons to the mix. Look around at church....perhaps it is the couple at the end of the pew... a coworker...or the cashier at the grocery store... Keep this person/persons in your prayers for a week at a time.*

*"I do believe we're all connected. I do believe in positive energy. I do believe in the power of prayer. I do believe in putting good out into the world. And I believe in taking care of each other," —Harvey Fierstein*

## ***Spiritually Speaking...***

Between Sunday morning sermons and Thursday evening Bible studies, the parable of the prodigal son has been getting a lot of airtime in my mind the past couple of weeks. During this recent round of reading and listening to the story, I was most struck by the idea of the younger son returning home empty-handed. My thinking was that we have to give up the things of the world—empty our hands, so to speak—and then turn around (repent) and go home. Only with such spiritual emptiness will we be able to receive the abundance of God's grace.

But as the story played out in my mind, I started thinking about the circumstances that caused the younger son to end up empty-handed. I wondered what it might mean to squander his inheritance, and then I started wondering about the inheritance itself. Jesus called us sisters and brothers; Paul tells us we are not only God's adopted children, but heirs as well. So what is God's inheritance to us?

Each of us inherits different gifts, talents, blessings, and circumstances from God. We might consider those things part of our inheritance from our Abba, our loving Father. Like the younger son, we could spend our inheritance seeking worldly things; even without making sinful choices as we presume he did, we can still seek things like wealth, status, and excitement that might cause us to stray far from home.

But we can also spend our gifts and talents for good—to serve others, to honor God, to try to bring forth the Kingdom in our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. For a long time I thought "prodigal" meant "wayward" or maybe "long lost," based on the context of the parable. Eventually I learned that the actual definition meant reckless or wasteful, which certainly describes the behavior of someone who squanders his fortune.

But prodigal also means extravagant and lavish. This seems to me a perfect way to describe God's grace and forgiveness for us. And I wonder if the younger son might have a valuable lesson to teach us that goes beyond the cautionary tale we usually associate with him. Maybe the lesson is this: To spend our inheritance—those blessings from God that are uniquely ours—wildly and extravagantly in service to the world. Maybe we're called to love generously and recklessly instead of guardedly and stingily. Perhaps our purpose is to trust God fully, to love him passionately, to praise him wholeheartedly.

I know that I would like to live like that—to spend every penny of my bountiful inheritance from God so that when I arrive home empty-handed, I can hear my Father say, "Welcome home, my child. Come and join the celebration."

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,  
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

