

# UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

March  
2014

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## Church Women United Meeting Feb. 28th



All women are invited to meet at Holy Rosary Church at 9:30 for brunch, followed at 10:00 by a Human Rights program: "Through God our hands can protect."

## A Note of Clarification From Your Treasurer:

In the last issue of UMW Voice you were invited to contact me if you want a receipt for income tax purposes for donations to UMW. I have since learned that the need for such documentation only applies to cash and in-kind donations (i.e., rummage sale items or groceries purchased for an event). If you have a cancelled check made out to UMW for any amount, that is sufficient documentation of the gift.

—Wanda Myers

## Reflections on Mission u—Winter 2014

Submitted by Jeannie Haight

Mission U, formerly called School of Christian Mission, is a wonderful opportunity to read about, study, discuss, learn, and reflect on our Christian faith and issues informed by that faith. It happens twice a year, once in the summer and again in the winter. The 2013-2014 studies were: "The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly," and "The Roma of Eastern Europe." With wonderful leadership from Diane Martin and Tish Herries, we considered how and to what we might be called, and how we respond. We also looked at the history and the persecution of the Roma (a people without a homeland), and some actions the United Methodist Church is taking in response to the plight of the Roma in Europe.

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## February General Meeting Highlights Gallatin College and the Need for 2-Year Program in the Gallatin Valley

Bob Hietala, Dean of Gallatin College, presented a very informative program on the role of the 2-year college at our February 4th General Meeting. He explained that the degree/certificate programs offered are identified by employment needs in the Gallatin Valley so graduates can find jobs locally upon completion.

Currently, the college offers only evening classes to serve those that need to work during the day, but the hope is to eventually have a campus of their own and expand class offerings to daytime hours to better accommodate all work schedules.

In addition to specific degree/ certificate programs, such as dental hygienist, flight ground school, and welding, Gallatin College also offers an Associate of Arts degree, which can be an affordable option for completing the first two years of a 4-year degree.

Many thanks to Bob for taking time from his schedule to talk to us. Also, thank you to NRG and Trinity Circles for the lovely refreshments enjoyed afterward and to all the hearty souls that braved the extreme cold to attend!

—Dana Doney

## Upcoming Meetings



**Ink Spots Card-making**  
**Mission Team Meeting**  
**Newly Retired Group**  
**Miriam-Ruth Circle**  
**Trinity Circle**  
**Evening Circle**  
**Noon Luncheon Group**

Monday, Mar. 10th, 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Mar. 11th, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Mar. 18th, 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, Mar. 19th, 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, Mar. 19th, 1:15 p.m.  
Monday, Mar. 24th, 5:30-8:00 p.m.  
Thursday, Feb. 27th, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Kathy Peyton's home  
Friendship Room  
IHOP Restaurant  
Conference Room  
TBD  
Conference Room  
Christus Collegium



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

United Methodist Women are committed to act on social issues; which include writing and talking to members of Congress and local officials. This is why we take time from our busy lives to gather and connect with each other. By bonding together, we make our community a better place for families and children. Let the power of prayer support all of us in our programs for peace and justice.

—Patti Hatfield, Social Action Coord.

***(Mission U, continued from page 1)***

The social aspect of Mission U is another great experience for participants, as we sampled Romani foods at dinner and lunch, shared stories with friends from around the conference, including former pastors Bob and Alita Phelps, and former members of our congregation. Gerry Paulus and her life of mission involvement, especially her response to the call to return to Kenya at age 88, inspired us. Gerry will be turning 100 this spring!

If this sounds like something you would enjoy, save the dates of August 15-16, 2014 for the summer session of Mission U, which will be held at Mission Valley UMC. Studies will be: “How Is It With Your Soul?” and “The Church and People with Disabilities.” Our former superintendent, Sue Debree will be leading the second study.

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

I feel as if I've missed the past two seasons of Lent by being so preoccupied with school-work. Now that my only class this month is Beginning Beekeeping, I'm looking forward to Lent, and I'm praying to make it a meaningful time.

The UMC website says: “Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.”

The way I understand this is that Lent is a time for saying no—through self-sacrifice—and a time for saying yes—through self-giving. I think the two things are tied together like a breath. When I say no to some things, there's more room in my life to say yes to others. And when I say yes in ways that are self-giving, it's easier to say no to the things that distract me or demand too much of my attention.

I don't know anyone who thinks it's possible to say yes to every good thing that comes along. Learning to say no helps us discover what's most important. When we say no to good things—for example, skipping a glass of wine or dessert with dinner or staying up late to watch one more episode of Downton Abbey—we demonstrate what's more important to us; we've made a decision in that moment that we want to say yes to better health or to being well rested for whatever the next day holds. Saying no to some things creates space in our lives for more meaningful yeses.

And when we say yes to giving ourselves to others, it may help us say no to the things we ought to be saying no to. If I extend myself to be kind to a difficult coworker, I say no to pettiness, holding a grudge, and meanness of spirit. If I say yes to taking a neighbor to the doctor, I say no to self-centeredness and personal convenience.

I invite you to practice saying yes and no during this Lenten season. And then notice what happens. Is there a bigger yes that happens because you've said no to something else? Maybe you want to say no to so much busyness; what if the yes you hear is the voice of God doing something new in your life? What if you say yes to anonymous acts of kindness? Maybe the no that results is less depression or anger. This Lent, pick one or the other—self-sacrifice or self-giving—or pick both. Then pay attention to what God is doing in your life.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,  
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

