

UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

May
2014

Dana Doney, Editor
dana.doney@gmail.com
570-5444



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Upcoming Events:

National Assembly 2014 will be held in Louisville, KY, April 25-27th. Gloria Zimmer will be attending from our church. Hillary Rodham Clinton will be the Keynote Speaker.

YAC Annual Conference
UMW Luncheon, June 6th, at Faith UMC in Billings. Registration is required and can be done online at yacumc.org.

This is the last UMW VOICE issue until September.

Have a great summer!



CWU World Friendship Day Celebration April 25th at BUMC

All women are invited to attend Church Women United's annual World Friendship Day Celebration on Friday, April 25th, in the BUMC Friendship Room. The event will begin with a brunch at 9:30 followed by a program on **Stephen Ministry**, presented by our own **Kim Broden**.

This is a great opportunity to become more familiar with this new ministry adopted by BUMC and to share in fellowship with representatives from other churches in Bozeman. Please plan to attend and invite your friends!



Come and "Imagine No Malaria" At UMW Spring General Meeting & Lunch-

Bozeman UMW extends an invitation to all to attend our annual May luncheon on **Wednesday, May 7th, at noon in the Friendship Room**. We are excited about our presentation, "Imagine No Malaria", presented by Janna Lauver of Yellowstone Area Conference. "Imagine No Malaria" is an extraordinary effort of the people of the United Methodist Church, putting our faith in action to end preventable deaths by malaria in Africa—especially those of children or their mothers..

Lunch cost is \$8 and is payable at the door. Reservations should be made to Wanda Myers at 587-3511 or jwmyers@centurylink.net.

All church members and guests are invited to attend!

Upcoming Meetings



Church Women United	Friday., Apr. 25th, 9:30 a.m. Brunch Program: "Stephen Ministry" by Kim Broden, 10:00 a.m.	BUMC Friendship Room
UMW General Meeting & Luncheon	Wednesday, May 7th, 12:00 Program: "Imagine No Malaria" by Janna Lauver following lunch	BUMC Friendship Room
Ink Spots Card-making	Monday, May 12th, 1:00 p.m.	Kathy Peyton's home
Newly Retired Group	Tuesday, May 20th., 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
Miriam-Ruth Circle	Wednesday, May 21st., 10:00 a.m.	Conference Room
Trinity Circle	Wednesday, May 21st., 1:15 p.m.	Fireside Room
Noon Luncheon Group	Thursday, May 22nd, 12:00-1:00 p.m.	No-host lunch, Columbus
Evening Circle	To Be Determined	Conference Room

Mission u Offers Great Summer Education Opportunity!

Mission Valley UMC, St. Ignatius, MT August 15-16.

"How Is It with Your Soul?" taught by Rev. Dr. Charles Alkula of Stevensville UMC, brings into balance the inner and outer dimensions of the Christian life. Organized around four verbs: pray, learn, mentor, and transform, the book will challenge you to become a more vibrant disciple of Christ. "How is it with your soul?" – It is hoped that after this study, your response will be a resounding, "It is well with my soul!"



Rev. Su DeBree brings significant personal awareness and experience to leading the course on "The Church and People with Disabilities" about how the church can be in ministry with people living with disabilities and their families.

Registration information can be found online at: http://www.yacumc.org/console/files/oForms_YJ7JB6/Mission_u_August_2013_WRDVIGTT.pdf

Spiritually Speaking...

I am slowly—and a little painfully, too—coming to the realization that this faith stuff is not a do-it-yourself project. No matter how hungry I am for deeper faith, my only option is to open myself to God with the prayer that He will change me.

I keep thinking that one more book or prayer practice or small group will be the key. But really, all I can do is stumble along, ask for forgiveness when I need it, and trust that God's grace remains regardless of how "good" I am or how much I try.

In his book *The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery*, David G. Brenner confirms the gradualness of this process. "Coming to know and trust God's love is a lifelong process. Making this knowledge the foundation of our identity—or better, allowing our identity to be re-formed around this most basic fact of our existence—will also never happen instantly. Both lie at the core of the spiritual transformation that is the intended outcome of Christ-following."

He goes on to also confirm the futility of thinking I can do any of this by myself. "Every time I dare to meet God in the vulnerability of my sin and shame, this knowing is strengthened. Every time I fall back into a self-improvement mode and try to bring God my best self, it is weakened."

I recognize that I need to pry my fingers off the steering wheel and surrender to God. But I don't know what that really means. I know I can't find a "Seven Quick Tips to Surrendering to God" guide, but I wish I could. Because sometimes I don't have a clue how to find the balance between being intentional about practicing my faith and trying to make my faith a project of my own undertaking.

My fear is that trying to be good or holy or whatever else I think a Christian should be only makes me self-absorbed instead of God-focused. I make it about being perfect or trying harder when it's really about allowing God's grace to touch me. As Brenner says, my self-improvement program is a poor substitute for God's transforming love.

I know I make it harder than it has to be, but I also know that growing in faith, being closer to God, doesn't just happen accidentally when we're not paying attention. We do have to show up and ask God to change us.

So there's the balance, I guess. I need to be intentional enough about using my prayer practices and other spiritual disciplines to show up and be present for God. Then I have to trust Him enough to believe that whatever happens after that is about His will, not mine.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

