

UMW VOICE

September
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The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

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Upcoming Events:

The **Big Horn District** meeting is going to be held "next door" at Livingston Holbrook UMC on Saturday, **September 13th**. The theme will be "Peaces of Tolerance." Registration is due by September 3rd, and the cost is \$10 including lunch.

Our own **Western Mountains District** meeting will be held at Great Falls First UMC on Saturday, **September 20th**. The theme is "Big Picture: Tomorrow". Registration is due by September 8th, and the cost is \$15 including lunch.

Then plan on attending the **Conference UMW Annual Meeting** at St. Paul's UMC in Helena on Saturday, **October 4th**. The theme is "Standing on Holy Ground". Registration is due September 29th and cost is \$25.

(Check *UMW bulletin board* or www.yacumc.org/umw for more info.)



Mission Projects:

Blackfeet United Methodist Parish and Intermountain Children's Home.

Whether or not you plan to attend these meetings, you can participate in the mission projects by supplying these much needed items:

WM District Meeting is collecting school supplies and hygiene items for Blackfeet UM Parish:

Hand sanitizer, rulers, glue sticks, wooden pencils, erasers, notebook paper, crayons, stickers, soap, toothbrush/paste, hair brush, etc.

Conference UMW Annual Meeting is collecting the following items for Intermountain Children's Home:

Art supplies, new Woolrich socks, waterproof gloves/mittens, bike/ski helmets—new or gently used.

Any quantity will make a difference!

Pledge to Mission Reminder From Our Treasurer

This year, we were asked to make financial Pledges to Mission to cover for the loss of our biggest fundraiser, the annual rummage sale, due to the kitchen remodel. For the most part, pledges have been coming in nicely...thank you! If you have forgotten how much you have pledged or how much you have paid, you can contact our treasurer, Wanda Myers, at 587-3511/ jwmyers@centurylink.net.

CWU Celebrates Summer with Noah's Ark Kids



Church Women United members and 8 campers from the Noah's Ark program at Salvation Army shared a beautiful summer morning together at Kirk Hill Farm. Songs, snacks, and getting acquainted were topped only by a tour of the farm to see all the animals. Lots of fun was had by kids and adults alike!
—JeannieHaight

Upcoming Meetings



Mission Team Meeting	Tuesday, Sept. 9th, 11:00-1:00	Friendship Room
Big Horn District Meeting	Saturday, Sept. 13th	Livingston Holbrook UMC
Newly Retired Group	Tuesday, Sept. 16th, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
Miriam-Ruth Circle	Wednesday, Sept. 17th, 10:00 a.m.	Conference Room
Trinity Circle	Wednesday, Sept. 17th, 1:15 p.m.	Fireside Room
WM District Meeting	Saturday, Sept. 20th,	Great Falls First UMC
Evening Circle	Monday, Sept. 22nd, 5:30 p.m.	Conference Room
Noon Luncheon Group	Thursday, Sept. 25th, 12:00-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium
Conference UMW Annual Meeting	Saturday, October 4th	Helena St. Paul's UMC

Summer Learning at “Mission u”

Submitted by Jeannie Haight

Gloria and I just returned from “Mission u” and wish more of our members could have enjoyed it with us. Besides the learning and sharing in the classes, the wonderful fellowship with friends from all around the conference, and of course delicious food, the Mission Valley setting was spectacular! Aside from the setting, you will be able to experience it all again at Grace UMC in Billings next winter. Rev. Sue Debree, leading “the Church and People with Disabilities” and Rev. Charles Alkula, leading “How is it with your soul?”, are stimulating and inspiring leaders. Put this one on your “to do” list and plan to go!



open hearts open minds open doors

Luncheon Conversations

Submitted by Gloria Zimmer

At the Annual Conference UMW Luncheon, the Rev. Izzy Alvaran shared his experience of growing up gay in the Phillipines, his earliest recognition that he was different, and his simultaneous call to ministry. He spoke of the intensity of coming out, gave pointers on helpful responses, and presented information about the bullying LGBTQ individuals often endure. Being supportive might save a life. Listening helps bridge the gap between ourselves and those who are different from us, and enables us to extend radical welcome.

Spiritually Speaking...

It was an 85-degree August day today, but the chilly mornings and the earlier sunsets whisper that fall is coming. I usually love autumn, but this year I'm feeling a bit melancholy about the approaching season. The passing summer months seem to be a reminder of quickly passing years. I remember that I am in the autumn of my life, and I'm not handling it as gracefully as I would like.

I see the reminders of passing years everywhere. Kids who were toddlers when we moved into this neighborhood are now driving. My old dog just watches the rabbits in the field, knowing she can't chase them anymore. The evidence is in the mirror as well, and it seems impossible that on my next birthday, my age will include a zero.

This has been a year that reminds me that life is precious and finite. My husband laughingly reminds me, "I thought you said you wanted to grow old together." I reply, failing to appreciate his attempt at humor, "Yes, but not just yet." He had a major health scare this year, and I've had some health issues of my own related to this degenerating body. I don't like it one bit.

I turn to scripture for some wisdom about aging, some way of accepting these years as the gift from God that they truly are. Psalm 92 says this about the righteous: *In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap.* Being rooted in God, the psalmist seems to say, results in an alive, vital life. Regardless of the mirror's reflection or my joints' complaints, staying close to God offers a fullness of life at any age.

And how do we stay close to God? The psalmist offers this advice: give thanks to the Lord, sing praise to his name, declare God's love and faithfulness.

Gratitude is always essential. Does it make sense to focus on aches and pains when I am so thankful for a healthy heart and legs that carry me where I want to go? Singing praises is a form of worship as well as gratitude. Rather than bemoan a stronger prescription in my glasses and hearing that doesn't seem quite as sharp as it used to be, can I use my morning walk to intentionally celebrate the yellow finches that dance on sunflowers and the call of the sandhill cranes? Evidence of God's love and faithfulness surround me constantly. I pray for the good sense to seek those signs with faith and hope—to celebrate this autumn and every season thereafter for as long as God blesses me with life here on earth.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

