

UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

December
2014

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

Elected Officers for 2015

President: Janna Christensen

Vice President: Open

Recording Secretary: Nettie Warwood

Asst. Recording Secretary: Patti Hatfield

Treasurer: Wanda Myers

Mission Coordinators

Spiritual Growth: Brenda Anderson-Baker

Mmbshp, Nurture, & Outreach: Jen Smith

Social Action: Patti Hatfield

Education & Interpretation: Gloria Zimmer

Sec. of Program Resources: Rachel Jarvis

Nominations Committee:

Lee Allinger

Elaine Smith

Open

Open

Publicity & "UMW Voice": Dana Doney

CWU Representative: Cecilia Tank

Historians: Cecilia Tank & Lois Adams

Anyone interested in filling an open position should contact Nettie Warwood at 580-2944 or nwarwood@outlook.com

The above officers and coordinators will be installed at the UMW General Meeting and Brunch on December 3rd.

Welcome to the Good News!

By learning of the birth of Jesus, we are called beyond everyday life to tell the good news, to become missionaries of the meaning of Jesus' birth for all people.

All women are welcome to attend the annual **UMW Advent Brunch at 9:30 a.m., December 3rd in the Friendship Room**. Following the program, brunch will be served, officers will be installed, Special Mission Recognition will be awarded, and the Thank Offering will be received. Please join us!

Fun for all at "Women's Treasure Tea"



A Gentle Reminder...

This is the time of year when end-of-the-year giving comes to mind. Although gifts to mission through UMW are welcome at any time, you might want to catch up on your 2014 pledge or make a pledge for 2015 now. At the end of the calendar year I will send out acknowledgements of your gifts to UMW during 2014 for income tax purposes.

—Wanda Myers, Bozeman UMW Treasurer

Upcoming Meetings

UMW General Meeting & Brunch	Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, 9:30 a.m.	BUMC Friendship Room
Noon Luncheon Group	Thursday, Dec. 4th, Noon-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium
Mission Team Meeting & Election	Tuesday, Dec. 11, 11:00-1:00	BUMC Friendship Room
Newly Retired Group	Tuesday, Dec. 16th, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
Miriam-Ruth Circle	Wednesday, Dec. 17th, 10:00 a.m.	BUMC Conference Room
Trinity Circle	Wednesday, Dec. 17th, 1:15 p.m.	BUMC Fireside Room





United Methodist Women FAITH * HOPE * LOVE IN ACTION

At a recent meeting, Noon Luncheon Group assembled and wrapped Christmas gifts to bring smiles to young faces.

The gifts will be delivered to children in the Blackfeet Reservation and in the Heart Butte/Browning area.



"...they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."—Matthew 2:11

Spiritually Speaking...

Do you remember being little and waking up very early on Christmas morning? We kids would whisper, giggle, and consult with one another to determine if it was late enough to wake Mom and Dad so we could go see what Santa had brought us. The anticipation as we waited at the top of the stairs was almost as delicious as opening the gifts and playing with our new toys.

I try to remember more recent times when I've felt such anticipation: coming down the airport escalator after a long trip away and seeing my husband waiting and smiling up at me, and then burying my face in his shirt. Waiting to get off the plane and see my sister after we've planned our visit for months. Opening the door to my room at the Academy for Spiritual Formation in San Antonio and knowing that soon I will be greeting dear friends and spending a spirit-filled week with them.

These moments of joyful anticipation come from my expectations of what that time will be like. And I am so grateful for these answered prayers. But my expectations are not always satisfied in larger-than-life moments. Sometimes a long-anticipated experience disappoints because it falls short of what I wanted. Sometimes it just can't live up to my unrealistic expectations. The Christmas season can be like that sometimes.

Even now, before Thanksgiving, it's easy to already be thinking about what we want Christmas to look like. This year, I would like to approach Christmas with no expectations. I want to spend Advent trying to let go, to create space and quiet and emptiness. The Jesus who comes to us at Christmas can then be the One I have hungered for.

I think the way to create some of that quiet anticipation comes from silence. At this time of year, some of it can come in darkness, lit by the fireplace, candles, or twinkling lights. Certainly, it comes with prayer. To anticipate the birth of the Christ Child means, I think, acknowledging his presence in our lives already. I pray to the One who is here now, and I pray to the One who is to come.

How has God shown up in your life lately? What can you point to that gives you knowledge of his presence, reassurance that he is here? Can you sit quietly and let your anticipation and excitement grow as the day of his birth draws near?

Dear Jesus, once again we await your arrival. Help us recognize the need for time with You—time to slow down, time to savor the quiet waiting, and time to find You in the silence. Fill us with gratitude, longing and anticipation as Your birth draws near.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

