

UMW VOICE

October
2014

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

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Upcoming Events:

October 4th: Make plans NOW to attend the Conference UMW Annual Meeting at St. Paul's UMC in Helena. The theme is "Standing on Holy Ground". Registration is due September 29th and cost is \$25.

Whether or not you can attend the meeting, please help out our mission project for Intermountain Children's Home by providing the following: **Art Supplies, new Woolrich socks, waterproof gloves or mittens, and bike/ski helmets (new or gently used).**

2014 Montana Ballot Issues Forum: How do they impact Women's Lives, Families and Pocketbooks?

WHEN: Wednesday, October 8th, from Noon to 1pm. Informal networking and voter education information available starting at 11:30am.

LOCATION: Bozeman City Commission Chambers, 121 N. Rouse. Parking is free but limited, so arrive early.

Friday, October 10 at Covenant UMC in Helena, 10:00-4:00—Building an Inclusive Church: A Workshop on the Basics of the Reconciliation Process, led by Rev. Izzy Alvaran. Open to all.

Friday Evening, October 10-Saturday, October 11 at St. Paul's UMC in Helena—George Harper Expanding Faith Lecture Series, featuring Dr. Diana Eck. Open to all.

**Attend all or some part of these Helena events!
(see page 2 for more info!)**

Sunday, November 2, 2:00 p.m.—Women's Treasure Tea. Save the date and watch for your invitation!

District Meeting Report

Three Bozeman women (Gloria Zimmer, Jeannie Haight, and Wanda Myers) enjoyed the Western Mountains District fall meeting in Great Falls. The necessary business (election and budget approval) was dispensed with efficiently. Devotions included the amazing story of Gladys Aylward, an English missionary in China during the 1930s and 1940s, upon which the movie "The Inn of Sixth Happiness" was based (loosely).

The program featured gleanings from Assembly, the national gathering of UMW last April. A film, "Chasing Ice," was the story of environmentalist James Bolag's multi-year time-lapse photography documenting the alarming rate at which the world's glaciers are receding. In the afternoon, still-exuberant Assembly attendees shared sketches of experiences most meaningful to them: great music led by an all-women band; Bible stories told by a trio of hilarious comedians; a work day in a disadvantaged Louisville neighborhood; joining a local protest for economic justice; Hillary Clinton's speech about her grounding in the twin Wesleyan traditions of personal and social holiness; and many others.

We met Rev. Calvin Hill, recently appointed to the Black-foot Parish. He is optimistic that his Navajo heritage will be an asset in his mission of making disciples for Christ among fellow Native Americans.

Gerry Paulus, a lifelong supporter of Yellowstone Conference and UMW, reported that she received 400 birthday cards for her 100th birthday in June! Another remarkable woman!

—Submitted by Wanda Myers

Upcoming Meetings

Conference UMW Annual Celebration	Saturday, Oct. 4th	St. Paul's UMC—Helena
Inkspots Card Making	Changing to Monday Evenings TBD	TBD (call Martha @ 586-6389)
Mission Team Meeting	Tuesday, Oct. 14th, 11:00-1:00	Friendship Room/TBD
Miriam-Ruth Circle	Wednesday, Oct. 15th, 10:00 a.m.	Conference Room
Trinity Circle	Wednesday, Oct. 15th, 1:15 p.m.	Fireside Room
Newly Retired Group	Tuesday, Oct. 21st, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
Noon Luncheon Group	Thursday, Oct. 23rd, 12:00-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium
Evening Circle	Monday, Oct. 27th, 5:30 p.m.	Conference Room
Fall General Meeting: Women's Treasure Tea	Sunday, Nov. 2nd, 2:00 p.m.	Friendship Room





open hearts open minds open doors
...the conversation continues...

The Tempest Tossed The World of Religious Pluralism: Global, Local and Personal

Last month, we highlighted Rev. Izzy Alvaran's lunchtime conversations at the UMW Luncheon at Annual Conference. And now the conversation will continue when Rev. Alvaran presents a workshop at Covenant UMC in Helena on Friday, October 10th, entitled: "**Building an Inclusive Church**". Topics covered include: LGBTQ 101 (sexual orientation and gender identity), Steps in Building an Inclusive Church, Graceful Engagement (engaging conflict well), the Ministry of a Reconciling Process Coach. The workshop will run from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and includes lunch. Cost is FREE; however donations are welcome! For more information or to register, please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/HelenaBIC>.

Our own Diana Eck will be the featured guest lecturer at the 10th annual George Harper "Expanding Faith" Lecture Series. The event will begin Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.. Silent Auction items will be available for viewing beginning at 6:00. Two more lectures are given on Saturday morning with the series wrapping up by noon.

Brochure Excerpt: Diana Eck combines her interest in other religions with her own Christian pluralist faith which led her to develop her concept of "pluralism". "Pluralism" is for Eck the best response to the challenges of religious diversity. Her concept of religious pluralism challenges more common responses to religious diversity including "exclusivism" (my way is the only way) and "inclusivism" (there are truths in other religions, but my way is the better way). For Eck, pluralism seeks to find new ways of positively engaging with diversity, exploring differences and seeking common understanding. To order tickets or for more info, please go to www.stpaulshelena.org.

Spiritually Speaking...

I think one of the hardest things to pray with any kind of authenticity is the Covenant Prayer attributed to John Wesley (#607 in our big hymnal). And the line that causes me the most difficulty is "Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee." I have been wrestling with what it might mean to be laid aside for God and why he might want that.

Through programs, studies, and training, I feel as if I have been preparing myself to be "employed" by God for the past several years. In order to have time for this preparation, I've had to set aside some leadership roles that kept me busy in our local church. As a result, I now find myself feeling adrift, unsure about how and where to step back in—or even if I should. I'm feeling as if I've been laid aside by God, and I'm taking it kind of personally. Why, after working so hard, would God lay me aside?

Worse, I find myself feeling jealous of those in leadership roles and those who get approval and acclaim for their church service. God knows how much I hate admitting that, but I miss feeling at the center of church activity; I miss being in the know about what's going on. I suspect these feelings are exactly why God might be laying me aside for now.

My ego wants the big thing, the employment for God that makes me feel valuable and important. Jesus asks the rich young ruler to leave his possessions and follow him. In a similar way, Jesus may be asking me to give up the very thing my ego wants. Maybe he wants me to be invisible, to serve without needing to be recognized and admired, to be free of the need to manage how I am perceived. Perhaps I'm being called during this season to focus on quiet service, pleasing only him instead of trying to impress or be admired by others.

Whether or not God will employ me in the future, I'm starting to sense that he is granting me the grace of small, daily acts of obedience right now. That thought, while somewhat disappointing, might help me stay grounded in each day rather than scanning the horizon for evidence of God's plan for my life. Maybe his plan is simply for me to be faithful in the everyday stuff of life.

I know I cannot do this myself, so my prayer is that Jesus will heal me of self-importance and approval-seeking and help me become a person who cares far more about how God sees me than how anyone else sees me. Merciful God, hear my prayer.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

