

UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

January
2015

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President Jackie Bids "Farewell"

"So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good-bye." I feel like a member of the Von Trapp family in "The Sound of Music" as I complete my 4-year term as your president.

After two decades in leadership with United Methodist Women on local, conference, and jurisdiction levels, I am stepping down to hone different skills through Stephen Ministry.

I am so grateful for learning and relationships gained through those experiences! And the great reality is that I'm still a member of our organization, just as I am still a member of the congregation after retiring as BUMC Church Secretary.

So, I expect to participate with you at UMW events and in UMW projects. Until then, "Good-bye" (*"God be with ye"*) and "Farewell" (*"may you fare well"*).

—Jackie Montgomery

Advent Meeting Recap

The December Advent General Meeting brought women together to learn about being messengers of the good news of Jesus' birth and how we are and can be missionaries in our daily lives. In addition to the program and brunch, this meeting also marks the end of terms served as we said goodbye to President Jackie Montgomery, and initiated new and returning officers for the coming year.

It is also a time to award "**Special Mission Recognition**" to women who have exemplified the work of our local UMW over the past year. This year's recipients are **Nettie Warwood**, who participates in two Circles, and has chaired the bake sale for the Chili Feed for multiple years, as well as serving on the Mission Team; and **Virginia Manseau**, who also participates in several UMW Circles and has served as a volunteer coordinator for our Rummage Sale in recent years. Both women always step up when help is needed. Thank you, ladies, for your dedication to UMW!

Time for Winter Session of Mission u!

It is hard to believe that it is that time already, but the winter session of **Mission u** is just around the corner. Register now to attend this year's school at **Grace UMC in Billings on February 6-7**. This school is open to men and women. Courses include: "**The Church and People with Disabilities**" and "**How Is It With Your Soul?**" Registration is due by **Jan. 20th** to avoid late fee. Registration forms are available on the UMW Bulletin Board. Scholarships are available from the conference (deadline of Jan. 10) and also from our local UMW unit.

Plan Now For These Upcoming Events:

Chili Feed & "Chasing Ice": On **Sunday, February 8th**, UMW will be providing a Chili/Soup dinner to accompany a showing of the film "Chasing Ice" on global warming presented by the BUMC Mission Team. The entire BUMC and extended community is invited to this event.

Fairmont Women's Event: This is a great way to connect with other UMW, friends, and family. Please plan to attend **March 6-8**. Registration and scholarship information is available on the UMW Bulletin Board. *More next month!*

Upcoming Meetings



InkSpots Cardmaking	Monday, Jan. 12th, Time TBD	Kathy Peyton's home
Mission Team Meeting	Tuesday, Jan. 13th, 11:00-1:00	BUMC Friendship Room
Newly Retired Group	Tuesday, Jan. 20th, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
Miriam-Ruth Circle	Wednesday, Jan. 21st, 10:00 a.m.	BUMC Conference Room
Trinity Circle	Wednesday, Jan. 21st, 1:15 p.m.	BUMC Fireside Room
Noon Luncheon Group	Thursday, Jan. 22nd, Noon-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium
Evening Circle	Monday, Jan. 26th, 5:30-8:00 p.m.	BUMC Conference Room
Mission u	Friday-Saturday, February 6-7th	Grace UMC—Billings
Winter General Meeting: Chili Feed & "Chasing Ice"	Sunday, February 8th	BUMC Friendship Room

Where your dollars go: BUMW 2014 Mission Giving

Undesignated Giving to support work of UMW National Organization

Pledge to Mission	\$6,500.00
Love Offering	\$100.00
Special Mission Recognition	\$80.00
Gift in Memory	80.00
Gift to Mission Cards	25.00
World Thank Offering	263.34
Prayer & Self-Denial Offering	126.00
UMW Legacy Fund	<u>150.00</u>
Total Undesignated Giving	\$7,324.34

Designated Giving

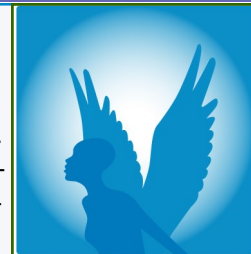
Blackfeet Parish	\$100.00
Leo Pocha Clinic	\$100.00
Intermountain Home	\$100.00
Church Women United	\$20.00
Family Promise	\$250.00
Haven	\$200.00
Love INC	\$100.00
Community Health Partners	\$100.00
WOW Kids	\$100.00
Engineers Without Borders	\$100.00
Community Café	<u>\$150.00</u>

Total Designated Giving \$1,320.00

Total Mission Giving for 2014: \$8,644.34

Spiritually Speaking...

2014 has been a hard year. At the year's end, I feel like I've had the stuffing knocked out of me. Every month brought, if not a crisis, then certainly a challenge. All parts of my life were impacted—health, family, work, volunteer activities, and even my faith. Far too often, I let go of the hand of Jesus, who truly did shepherd me through the year. Far too often, I dwelled in fear instead of faith.



My early January birthday brings not only a new year, but a new decade of life. And while I've never been big on New Year's resolutions, this year is different. I have two resolutions, and I share them here for public accountability.

The first is something I've written about before—keeping the Sabbath. I watch myself intentionally and deliberately disobey God's commandment and shake my head in disbelief. The thing is, Sabbath is a *gift*, not an obligation. A day of rest? That sounds...well, heavenly. So why don't I take it?

My life won't stop if I don't finish my things-to-do list. While there are consequences to having incomplete tasks, my discomfort is the biggest penalty. So with the exception of a single Sunday evening commitment each month, I resolve to devote Sunday afternoons and evenings to nurturing my spirit.

From the time I get home from church until I go to bed, I have close to twelve hours to spend in holy leisure. I can read or write or nap. I can pray or listen to music or take a long walk. I can hang out with my husband, visit with a friend, or watch my dogs play. Yes, a day of rest is God's good gift to us.

My other resolution is letting go of the many things that clutter my life. The amount of stuff I own no longer enhances my life, but drags it down. I have way more than I need, and it serves no purpose sitting in a closet except to make me feel guilty. When I can share what's still useful with someone who needs it, my stuff can be a gift to others. When I get rid of what's no longer useful, I create breathing room in my home and in my mind and soul.

Despite the hardships of the past year, I have so much to be grateful for. I give thanks to God for the beauty that is my life and for his protection and comforting presence during the hard times. I pray that my Sabbath rest and sharing my excess with others can be tokens of my deep gratitude.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth