

UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

November
2015

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Upcoming Events:

Church Women United will be meeting on **Friday, November 6th** at 11:00 a.m. in the BUMC Friendship Room to celebrate **2015 World Community Day**. The theme will be: **"Our Journey Together"**

Uniting faith communities in a time of praise and worship that demonstrates Christ's reconciling love to the community, country, and world. Everyone is welcome! BUMW host!

November 8th, UMW member **Bonnie Pickett** will be turning **100 years old!** A celebration will be held at Aspen Pointe.

Election and Budget approval will be held at the start of our **November 10th** Mission Team meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and vote!

Our next **General Meeting** will be our Advent Program with Brunch on **Wednesday, Dec. 2nd at 9:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room**. In addition, we will have officer installation, Mission Recognition, and Thank Offering will be received.

2015 Conference UMW Annual Meeting Report

Submitted by Gloria Zimmer

First-time attendee Lee Allinger's take-away thoughts from Rita Hofer's talk:

- The 55 members of her Hutterite Colony near Lewistown are hard working; proud of their self-reliance, loyalties, communal living cooperative spirit, and teaching of German in their school...only language used in their church services.
- Rita stated she is "probably the most liberated female member." Examples: Women are not allowed to drive; she does. (Father needed to be picked up in the work fields to continue farming..he made it happen.) Many go to their school only until age 15; she finished high school through correspondence courses and her two sons currently attend MT colleges. She researched/saved/lobbied her colony...and made it happen.
- After many questions and some good humor, the group gave her a standing ovation! So glad I was there.

The theme of the meeting was **"Building Bridges."** Bridge building to other cultures also occurred as we heard from:

- Terry Brocke, school superintendent from Chinook who is an expert on native languages, particularly his own Gros Ventre. He described how the language not only names things, but imbeds culture and values. When Native American children were punished for using their own languages in the mission boarding schools, they lost much more than the names of things. The language tells them who they are. He works to help tribes keep their languages alive.
- Sheri and Calvin Hill who minister in Blackfeet United Methodist Parish. Calvin (Navajo) is the pastor and Sheri (Ojibwe) works alongside him. Sheri described the expanding "shoebox ministry" of gifts to delight over 1000 children in Browning, Heart Butte, and Babb while Calvin spoke of his vision for the parish, including establishing a horse training center to help youth develop a skill.

Worship, business, and fellowship over food rounded out the day. Sixty-five attended. Others from Bozeman were Jeannie Haight and Gloria Zimmer. Stacey King, former BUMC member, was installed as the incoming president.

Upcoming Meetings

Church Women United	Friday, Nov. 6 th , 11:00 a.m.	Friendship Room
Mission Team Meeting	Tuesday, Nov. 10 th , 10:00 a.m.-Noon	Friendship Room
Newly Retired Group	Tuesday, Nov. 17 th , 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
Miriam-Ruth Circle	Wednesday, Nov. 18 th , 10:00 a.m.	Conference Room
Trinity Circle	Wednesday, Nov. 18 th , 1:15 p.m.	Fireside Room
Evening Circle	Monday, Nov. 23 rd , 5:30 p.m. (TBD)	Conference Room
UMW General Meeting & Brunch	Wednesday, Dec. 2 nd , 9:30 a.m.	Friendship Room



In Praise of Singing....

Submitted by Patti Hatfield, Social Action Coordinator

"The Lord is good to us; and so we thank the Lord for giving us the best of friends, the love and care that never ends, the Lord is good to us. Amen".....Bozeman women sing, and so begins a UMW meeting starting with a meal.

Breaking into song is a tradition that may have started with an early Methodist Minister, William Wesley Van Orsdel, more affectionately known as "Brother Van".

This time of year is also when you might hear United Methodist men and women singing the "Harvest Time" song:

*"The seed I have scattered in springtime with weeping
And watered with tears and with dews from on high;
Another may shout when the harvesters reaping,
Shall gather my grain in the 'sweet by and by.'"*

Chorus:

*Over and over, yes deeper and deeper,
My heart is pierced through with life's sorrowing cry;
But the tears of the sower and the songs of the reaper
Shall mingle together in joy by and by;
By and by, by and by, by and by, by and by;
Yes the tears of the sower and the songs of the reaper
Shall mingle together in joy by and by."*

"Brother Van" was a Circuit Rider in the 1880's when Montana was not yet a State. He rode horseback or carriage, and became the founder of many of the first Methodist Churches in Montana. Each city he visited regularly had such a Church.

May we continue to follow the example and enjoy the fellowship, and often break into song as we gather.

Spiritually Speaking...

In gospel story after story, Jesus reveals himself as the Great Healer. He offers healing and wholeness so widely and often that it seems clear to me that healing is his desire for all of God's children. And almost all of us need some type of healing—physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual. We may be suffering from recent health issues or wrestling with old grief. Perhaps we're struggling with depression or anxiety or anger. Maybe we feel overwhelming loneliness, as if everyone has forgotten about us.

When I talk about healing, I'm talking about being restored to God's particular vision of wholeness for each one of us, which may or may not necessarily involve being cured of illness. Medicine may cure us, but Jesus heals us. And while we must depend on Jesus to be the Healer, there are things we can do to open ourselves to his healing power.

Prayer is the best way I know to crack open the door of our souls to allow healing of all kinds in. We can ask directly for healing; after all, Jesus says, "What do you want me to do for you?" Or we can bask wordlessly in the healing love of Jesus because he knows what we want and need. Still another way prayer can aid our healing occurs when we ask others to pray on our behalf.

Gratitude is a practice that opens us to Christ's healing love. It's hard to be grateful when we're in pain, but it can be powerful to remind ourselves that even though we may be bedridden temporarily, our hearts beat and our lungs take in essential oxygen without us having to pay the tiniest bit of attention to it. We may be depressed, but maybe we can be grateful for mental health professionals and medications that help. A relationship with a family member may be strained, but can we give thanks for friends who become like family to us?

Another way to be receptive to God's healing is through the created world. We might take comfort in cuddling a dog or cat, taking a walk amid the autumn colors, or gazing at the stars in the night sky. Art of all kinds can be healing—music, stories, paintings, poetry, even good movies. And having a community of support while healing is invaluable.

Healing can be a long, drawn out process, and we cannot rush it. We don't have to like it, but we do have to move through it in order to heal; we all know the adage "The only way out is through." While the healing process can be filled with uncertainty, the one thing we know for certain is that Jesus accompanies us every step of the way.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

