

The Link



*United Methodist Women
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*St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
327 Marlton Pike West
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002*

Another Note from Anne:

This is my last Link noted to you as President of the United Methodist Women. I have truly enjoyed my time in this office. I look forward to serving in another way.

My thanks to all of you for your support and cooperation. The following article was my first Christmas message to you. It still holds true.

Christmas Eve is my favorite night of the year. It has been, as far back as I can remember. There is a sense of anticipation on that night that only comes once a year.

A child was born on this night more than 2,000 years ago and he is about to be born again as he has been each year since then, and will be each year in the future.

Constant birth.....Constant hope.....Constant love.

**Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
Star and angels gave the sign.**

May you be surrounded by the warmth, peace and wonder of the season.

Anne



Purpose of United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the Global Ministries of the Church.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sun., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
Mon., Dec 25 Christmas Day

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER:

“Do Your Own Thing”

MISSIONS POSSIBLE

Donate cookies for Collingswood Manor on Dec. 3.

Please share your time and resources to be a blessing to others.

Continue to donate to Little Hands Little Feet, especially underwear, socks and baby blankets.

Bring used ink cartridges to church.

Continue with circle projects.

WANTED: COOKIES FOR COLLINGSWOOD MANOR RESIDENTS

Every year Collingswood Manor gives each of its residents a container of cookies in December. **If you would like to donate cookies, please leave them in the church lounge kitchen, marked "Collingswood Manor" on the morning of Sunday, December 3.** I will take the cookies to the manor. Your donations will be appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Beverly DeZutti at 856-667-9248. Thank you!

REPORT FROM GREATER NJ UMW FALL 2017 MEETING ON RACIAL JUSTICE – OCTOBER 21, 2017

Rev. Dr. Vanessa Wilson shared about her cross-cultural trip to South Africa, visiting both Johannesburg and Soweto. (She is leading the GNJ team which is developing the 10 year plan for increasing cross-cultural competencies.) Dr. Wilson is the Chair of Religion and Race for the GNJ United Methodist annual conference and wrote the introduction to the Anti-Poverty Network (APN) report, "The Uncomfortable Truth – Racism, Injustice and Poverty in NJ".

The APN annual summit will be on Friday, October 27th at Rutgers New Brunswick.

After lunch, there was a panel discussion on racial justice. One observation is that President Trump is bringing to the surface the issues, hidden agendas, prejudices and faith-based organizations. Women should take this as an opportunity to have deeper conversations about racial justice with families, friends and in communities. We should be bold, "speak out" on justice issues and "be present". Education, including understanding U.S. history and U.S. law, was high among the actions.

The theme for the UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio from May 18-20 is "The Power of Bold".

Esther Canty-Barnes, the Chair of the Charter for Racial Justice, and Joyce Pratt, GNJ UMW Communications Coordinator, were among those on the panel which included three past presidents of NJ United Methodist Women.

Linda Babler was elected Vice President/Program Chair. This position is liaison with Church Women United – NJ.

Sara Joslin

NEWS FROM OUR CIRCLES

Anna Circle

Leader: Marilyn Ivers

Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the lounge

October 2017: Anna Circle met on Tuesday, October 3 with 11 members present. We enjoyed Pam Nanni's refreshments as we listened to Marilyn Ivers share the hug of the day.

There were a number of prayer concerns including Bill Young and Val Cook. Information on health concerns for Rose DeGuzman and Vince Anderer were shared.

Marilyn asked for workers for the bazaar every morning next week. She also requested baked goods with a list of ingredients on the day of the bazaar. The vendors will be able to set up on Friday from 5 pm-9 pm and on Saturday morning. Times for the bazaar are from 9 am-4 pm on Saturday. Lois Stawicki asked for soups, cashiers, and help in the kitchen.

Marcia gave us the opportunity to purchase Boscov's Friends Helping Friends passes for October 17.

Sara shared information on our mission focus which is The Caribbean and The Americas. The Bishop recently went to Puerto Rico. Marcia presented the program on our mission pledges for the year of 2018. We handed in those pledges.

Sandy Ferguson, Reporter

November 2017: Anna Circle met on Tuesday, November 7. There were 11 members present. Claudia Sacharok provided the tasty refreshments.

We shared prayers for Barbara Brown, Lee Manns, Rose DeGuzman, Vince Anderer, Shelly Abrams' family, a friend's son Reece, Jen Howlett's family, and Darren Drake. Someone reported that Barbara was recovering slowly from her hip surgery.

Cards were signed for Darrell Ernst, Martha Seaney, the Quiggs and Mary Ann Edgerton.

Marilyn shared the Hug of the Day that had a neighbors message plus today's prayer calendar. Marilyn read Anne Thompson's letter to the circle and a thank you from the Golf Committee for our hole sponsorship.

We were encouraged to bring potatoes for the Neighborhood Center and to attend the UMM Thanksgiving Breakfast.

Beverly DeZutti is looking for people to be on the Collingswood Manor Auxiliary. See her if you are interested.

The December meeting will be a brunch held at St. Andrew's. Various members volunteered to bring food to share. Pastor Richard and Anne Thompson will be invited to join us in December.

The bazaar brought in about half of what was brought in for the two-day event.

Kay Coyle presented our program which covered November and December. It focused on Jesus' birth and compared the journey of Mary and Joseph to what refugees go through today. We discussed Jesus' birth circumstances and famous ancestors compared to modern day homeless. We discussed ways to offer support, encouragement and acceptance towards others in need.

Sandy Ferguson, Reporter



Elizabeth Circle
Leader: Lydia Work

Meets the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m in the Church Conference Room

October 2017: We met on Sunday, October 1 in the church conference room. Present were: Our leader Lydia Work, Diann Wilson, Aquilla McNeal, Janet Anderer, Jill Spangler, Ester Falcone, Nina Willmore, Sue Malec, Connie Visconti, Connie DiRocco, Sandy Weaver, and Pat Manley.

Lydia opened our meeting with prayer for members of our church, friends and family and for the people who have been affected by hurricanes this summer.

We discussed our upcoming UMW bazaar on Saturday, October 14. We are looking for volunteers to help at the bazaar that day and for donations of homemade soup and baked goods.

After our Pledge to Mission Program, we filled out pledge cards. The UMW is involved in many missions in the United States and in foreign countries. One mission is our Neighborhood Center in Camden which is an outreach program to the children and adults in that area.

We watched our DVD, "Women of the Bible". This week's discussion was about Leah. Jacob loved Leah, but was tricked into marrying Rachel who was more beautiful than Leah. Leah wanted Jacob to love her and was very insecure and felt rejected. There was no happy ending for Leah.

We discussed how women sometimes define themselves by what others think of them, but our relationship with God is what defines us.

The three gems of learning are:

1. Life is flawed and can be hard.
2. We sometimes have unfulfilled longings.
3. No matter how invisible we might feel in this life, we are always seen by God.

We will be getting together for dinner at Seasons 52 on Tuesday, October 10 and are looking forward to dinner and our next circle meeting on November 5.

Pat Manley, Reporter

November 2017: Eleven members met on Sunday, November 5: Our leader Lydia Work, Diann Wilson, Connie DiRocco, Sandy Weaver, Maryann Smith, Connie Visconti, Ester Falcone, Jill Mayo, Amy McCausland and Pat Manley. We welcomed Gail Ross who is a friend of Jill Mayo.

Lydia opened our meeting with prayer and announcements about upcoming UMW and church activities. We will be getting together for dinner on Tuesday, November 14 at the Bahama Breeze. We always enjoy getting together for dinner and fellowship.

Lydia passed around the 2018 Reading Program book and the newsletter, "Joy in the Harvest" from our missionary in Tanzania.

We are continuing to donate clothing, money and baby blankets to Little Hands Little Feet.

This month our woman of the Bible was Hannah. We discussed how Hannah longed to have a baby and felt inferior because she had no children. In those times, it was believed that a woman was not worthy of having a child if she had problems conceiving. It was as though she had done something wrong and was being punished. She prayed that she would become pregnant and finally gave birth to a child.

We discussed how women often try to be strong and hide their true feelings, but God wants your real face.

We are looking forward to getting together on Sunday, December 3 at our next circle meeting.

Pat Manley, Reporter



Esther Circle
Co-Leaders: Yvonne Moore and Claire Beaverson
Meets the second Thursday of every month at 11:15 am at a local eatery
and then the Graf Room

October 2017: Present were Gloria Wilcock, Claire Beaverson, Yvonne Moore, Barbara Fegley, Anne Bossard and Jean Augustin. Esther Byers, our Circle Friend, also joined us for lunch.

Our prayer concerns are still many and varied, covering family members, neighbors and friends. Keep all of these persons in your prayers. We also request prayers for Vince Anderer and Jean Augustin's brother. Also, the victims of the horrendous fires in California and the devastation in Puerto Rico and, of course, the many and numerous problems in the world today. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is always in need of shawls, including the baby shawls for newly christened babies. Little Hands Little Feet continues with their ministry of supplying needy families with baby/children's clothes.

Lois Hill led the devotions with the reading of a story about a man who was losing his sight with little hope of improving. He never prayed, but discovered his eyesight was improving little by little and he was able to use audio books with large print and soon had 20/50 vision. There was no explanation for his eyesight improving. He was not a "prayer", but found out that his son had asked for prayers from his church family for his father's recovery. His new motto is "when in trouble, pray!" Blessed be the invisible power of prayer.

Our World Thank Offering envelopes were collected. World Thank Offering began in 1881. One of the places the proceeds go to this year is to Operation Hope in Kenya and also to an organization in Lima, Peru.

Yvonne spoke about Proceso Kaiors Peru, a non-governmental organization which promotes equality and citizenship from a theological perspective focused on life. The organization offers education and advocacy regarding voting, women's health and sexuality, among other things. The women relate that it has helped them see they could face problems and come up with solutions.

Gloria Wilcock presented the program, "A Community United by Giving." Excerpts from Matthew and John were read. Basically, United Methodist Women offer more than a meal, a visit, a prayer shawl. As followers and disciples of Jesus Christ, we offer and share our faith, our hope and our love of Christ. This is the why of all that we do to live into this scripture – to live into our Purpose.

United Methodist Women is the largest women's organization in the world. In 2015, United Methodist Women members raised \$13 million for missions with women, children and youth around the world.

After a short discussion, we presented our pledges for the coming year and the program was ended with a prayer.

Our November meeting will be on November 9th and we will meet at the Turning Point on Haddonfield Road for lunch prior to our meeting in the Graf Room. Our monthly contribution for Cathedral Kitchen will be cleaning supplies.

Claire Beaverson, Co-Leader

November 2017: Present were Gloria Wilcock, Claire Beaverson, Yvonne Moore, Barbara Fegley, Anne Bossard, Jean Augustin, Dot Lauer, Mary Vona, Nina Kemps, Mary Lou Johnson and Nancy Wyatt. Our President, Anne Thompson, also joined us. Esther Byers, our Circle Friend, was unable to join us this month.

Our prayer concerns are still many and varied, covering family members, friends and neighbors. We also request prayers for Vince Anderer who will be undergoing skin graft surgery shortly and Jean Augustin's brother, Jim; Lee Manns, who is now on dialysis while awaiting a kidney donation for replacement; a friend who had a double lung transplant; friends suffering from cancer.....please keep all these persons and others in need in your prayers.

Lois Hill led the devotions with the reading of a story about a family waiting for their son to arrive home for Thanksgiving. A telephone call informs them his car has become disabled and needs extensive repair work. His father knew just the person to fix the car and, although it was late, the son finally arrived home to his family Thanksgiving dinner. A grateful family for answered prayers. Again, the power of prayer wins out!

The circle members will be sending a monetary Christmas gift to the Neighborhood Center and also to our missionaries for their use in continuing their work.

Mary Vona presented the Christmas program which opened with the story of the birth of Jesus which took place in a far from comfortable outdoor stable. All this after they had walked approximately 80 miles from her home.

Has there been a time in your life when you have had to move out of places of safety and comfort to find temporary housing? May God give us the mind of the Bethlehem innkeeper, to offer what we have to people facing tough times.

Basic United Methodist Church in Waynesboro, Virginia has experienced an influx of Latino immigrants over the past 15 years. Casa de Amistad is a social service agency housed at Basic United Methodist Church. In English, Casa de Amistad means House of Friendship. This program offers education and enrichment programs for children, youth and adults; life skills and reading programs; food supply outreach programs and the like. They also offer a hypothermia program for homeless people in the winter. A free breakfast on Saturday mornings is given by the church and they open their supply cabinet so people can get personal care and household items free of charge.

More can be read about this wonderful program in the November 2015 copy of the "Response" magazine.

We then visited the "headquarters" of Little Hands Little Feet where Barbara Fegley explained the entire process of receiving, sorting, sizing and packaging the clothes which eventually make their way to families in need. We also saw the children's library which was set up and organized by our own Nina Kemps. An appropriate age book is also put in with the package of clothes along with a stuffed toy. It is an unbelievable ministry and we urge anyone who is able to get involved in any way possible.

On December 14th we will meet at the Il Villagio restaurant on Berlin Road in Cherry Hill for our Christmas luncheon. There will not be a formal meeting.

A Happy Thanksgiving to all and remember to thank God for all we have, including the food we eat.

Claire Beaverson, Co-Leader



Martha Circle
Leader: Lauren Mallow
Meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 pm in the lounge

October 2017: The Martha Circle had their second meeting on Monday, October 23. There were 6 ladies in attendance and special thanks goes out to Jen and Stacie for providing goodies!

We continued discussing our role in organizing a few church family events throughout the year. Jen is now our Events Coordinator and will be asking Colleen about possible dates for an after church Chat and Chew. We would love to have fellowship with all members of the church, so stay tuned for a Sunday soon!

Pledge cards were handed out and we discussed our options for supporting UMW. Aside from a monthly or annual pledge, Martha girls would love to sponsor an additional offering to support our Haiti missions. We are excited to discuss possible fundraising events in the future to ensure this idea.

After a devotion from Matthew, our hearts turned once again to Haiti and Kristen spoke about another trip for February or March. The Lord is speaking to a few girls about possibly attending this missions trip; however, more prayer and information are needed.

The Holy Spirit is working in our circle and we are thankful. It is wonderful to hear everyone's passions for the Lord and we are taking one day at a time to seek His will in our lives.

Lauren Mallow, Leader

