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In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ... When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
Matthew 2:1-2; 9-10 (NRSV)

An epiphany in a non-religious sense is sometimes described as an Ah-Ha moment. It is literally defined as an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. In religious terms, Epiphany is the 12th day after Christmas and is noted as the day the Wise Men visited the baby Jesus. Putting both the sacred and secular definitions together, we celebrate Epiphany as the day when the recognition of Jesus as the promised Messiah was given to the Gentiles through the journey of the Magi. This reality spread beyond the stable, beyond the field, beyond the hearts and minds of a few to the hearts and minds of many. We experience this Epiphany again and again as each day we welcome the Christ Child into our hearts.
Diana Revelle, Editor

THE PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of 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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2019 was a wonderful year for UMW at MUMC. We welcomed new members to our circles. We worked together to reach goals for missions. We celebrated together in our Unit meetings. We rejoice because we have a history of UMW, titled *A Legacy of Mission: The History of the United Methodist Women of Missouri United Methodist Church, Columbia, Missouri 1881-2019* and authored by Diana L. Revelle that was published and distributed this year.

Our December Unit meeting brought more than 60 of us together to enjoy music by the Discovery Days children, special mission recognition of four women (Pat Brooks, Suzanne McDavid, Mary Quart, and Marsha Sergent), a memorial service for eight women (Alice Minnear who died in 2017 but whose death was discovered this year, Lola Southall, Mary Frances Potter, Edie Cooper, Janice McDaniel, Ruth Collins, Sally Marble and Marcella Johnson) and a wonderful catered/carry in lunch. It was a joy to have Rev. Leist and the MUMC staff join us for lunch and fellowship time. I would like to thank Gina Sandwith and Kathy Lawson for arranging our December event.

As we look forward to 2020, I wish everyone who is reading this message a blessed holiday season. May we be there for each other in all times of joy and sadness in the spirit of UMW sisterhood.

June DeWeese, President

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 2 _____ No Executive Team Meeting
- January 12 _____ Church Women United, MUMC, 2:00-4:00
- February 5 _____ Executive Committee, 8:45 a.m.
- March 4 _____ Executive Committee, 8:45 a.m.
- March 6 _____ World Day of Prayer
- March 10-11 _____ Conference Legislative Event
- March 20 _____ Newsletter Article Deadline
- April 25 _____ District UMW Meeting, Prairie Home
 (tentative date and place)

CIRCLE NEWS

Breakfast Circle

Phyllis Miller

The Breakfast Circle held a surprise buffet breakfast for Deanne Miller (daughter-in-law of Phyllis Miller) when she returned from Egypt. Deanne has and is playing a big part in our yearly Geranium Sale, so Mary Waltman - a member of our Circle - volunteered to make one of Mary's fabulous shawls for Deanne.



Mary Waltman presents Deanne Miller with a shawl.



At our December Breakfast Circle, we greatly enjoyed a gift exchange of Christmas ornaments. Based on a drawing of numbers each member selected a wrapped ornament package. After opening her ornament, the circle member had the option of keeping it or trading it for another Circle member's already opened ornament. The picture shows the members showing off the ornaments they selected and being a Christian organization we all still departed as friends.

Searcy Feely

Thanks to everyone who purchased pecans this year. The proceeds this year totaled \$1,494.00.



Eagle Circle

Eagle Circle joined with Val's Circle to staff the Wardrobe on Wednesday, October 23rd. Members of both circles were assisted by Elmer Revelle.



Our meeting in October was a trip to the Museum of Art and Archaeology. Members enjoyed an informative tour followed by our regular business meeting. In November, we met in the parlor for our regular business meeting then formed groups to work in the church. Groups worked on Christmas trees, refurbishing the offering plates, and cleaned and/or replaced candles for the Christmas Eve services. Our next meeting will

be January 15th at 10:00 in the parlor. The program will be given by Dr. Kate Trawler, speaking about her archeological dig in Pompeii.



Sophia Circle

Warm of Columbia Collection Totals

Children:

- 32 coats
- 3 snow pants
- 42 hats
- 17 pairs of mittens
- 24 children pairs of socks

Adults:

- 67 coats
- 2 snow pants
- 42 hats and scarfs
- 31 pairs of gloves
- 56 pairs of socks

Blankets = 36

Val's Circle

Mum sale update: The reported mum sale total was incorrect in the 3rd quarter newsletter. The Mum Sale proceeds total was \$486.00.

Wesley Circle

Suzanne McDavid

Ten Wesley members assisted with VAC Christmas distribution on Thursday, November 12th. The circle is also volunteering at the Wardrobe on the 3rd Thursday to increase the opportunity for clothing to be accepted and sorted.

MUMC Book Club

The MUMC Book Club will meet on Wednesday, January 8th at 10:00 in the Fireside Room of the Lenoir Community Center.

The book will be *Tiffany Girl* by Deeanne Gist. All are welcome to attend.

Quilters

Quilters – December 2019

One quilt finished and another going in as quilters look on!



UNIT NEWS

Candle Burning

The mission celebration of Candle Burning was held during UMW Sunday on October 13th. The amount collected this year was \$3,761.18.



UMW President, June DeWeese serves as Liturgist

December Unit Meeting

The December Unit Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 4th. The meeting began with a wonderful musical program given by the children of the Discovery Days Preschool. During the meeting, Pam Thomeczek was installed as the new unit Vice President. Four members were honored with Mission Recognition pins: Marsha Sergent, Suzanne McDavid, Mary Quart, and Pat Martin. During a beautiful memorial service, eight women were remembered. Following the meeting, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch.





Pat Thomaczek is installed as Vice President by Carol



Marsha Sergent receives a Mission Recognition pin



Pat Martin and Suzanne McDavid receive Mission Recognition pins. Mary Quart was not available to receive her pin.



Support of Local Missions

In addition to the pledge to mission from unit members, fundraisers and other donations to our local UMW unit help support local mission endeavors. Four agencies received donations from our treasury of \$500.00 each at the end of 2019:

- Central Pantry – a subsidiary of The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri
- FISH (Faith in Service to Humanity) Administered by VAC
- Love Inc.
- The Wardrobe

LOCAL NEWS

Church Women United

UMUC UMW will host the January meeting of Church Women United on Sunday, January 12 from 2:00-4:00. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and offer help where needed.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Conference Legislative Event

The 2020 Conference Legislative Event will be held on March 10-11 at Wesley UMC in Jefferson City. The theme for this year is 2020: *The Year of the Lord's Favor*. Participants will

- Attend Legislative Update/Hot Topics session
- Receive training in Legislative Advocacy 101
- Go to Prison – Tour the closed Missouri State Penitentiary
- Advocate for Criminal Justice/Prison Reform bills.
- Hear Keynote Speaker, Jeanette Mott Oxford, Executive Director, Empower Missouri

Registration information is as follows:

- Early/Pre-Registration Deadline is January 31, 2020
Early Registration Fee - \$75.00
- Late Registration Deadline is February 21, 2020
Late Registration Fee - \$90.00

Scholarships are available. For scholarship information and/or a copy of the registration form, contact Diana Revelle 573-489-2228; revellediana@gmail.com

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

United Methodist Pledge to Mission

Since the formation of the first organization of Methodist women in 1869 women have been promising to support missions both nationally and internationally through financial giving. The focus of UMW is mission to women, children, and youth. The primary source of funds for mission channeled through United Methodist Women comes from its members. Five channels of giving exist through which monies can be given. The Pledge to Mission is the largest of the five channels. A pledge is not a tax, dues, or an apportionment. It is not based on unit membership or attendance. It is simply a promise made by a UMW member to share an offering designated to support and fund mission. It can be pledged yearly, quarterly, monthly or in any form that meets individual financial capabilities.

When we make a pledge to mission through the United Methodist Women treasury, we are not only supporting missions in Missouri, but also throughout the United States and around the world. Likewise, when women throughout the world make their pledges to mission, they are sharing in the

support of the recognized organizations in Missouri. The previous Unit newsletters in 2019 highlighted the five agencies/ministries in Missouri: Della Lamb Community Services, Kansas City, MO; Epworth Children and Family Services, St. Louis, MO; InterServ, St. Joseph, MO; Spofford, Kansas City, MO; and Susanna Wesley Learning Center, East Prairie, MO.

In the first quarter newsletter last year, we explored the path that money takes to fund mission. We will take a closer look at that in the newsletters in 2020 and highlight the other channels or pathways through which money is shared: Gift in Memory; Gift to Mission; Special Mission Recognition; and World Thank Offering.

A pledge to mission is a recognition of need, and a promise to support the ministries that address that need. We sincerely hope that you will prayerfully consider making a financial pledge to mission for 2020.

June DeWeese, President

Carole Babel, Treasurer

Diana Revelle, Coordinator of Communications

Additional District Support

In addition to the nationally recognized agencies that are funded through general UMW pledges, Mid-State District supports two additional Missouri agencies: Kingdom House in St. Louis and New House in Kansas City. Your pledge to mission aids in this support.

Kingdom House, St. Louis, MO

Kingdom House was founded in 1902 as a settlement house by a shoe manufacturing executive who wanted to help the poor, many of whom were immigrants. Unrelated middle-class women and men lived cooperatively as “settlers” who hoped to share knowledge and culture with their low-paid, poorly educated neighbors. They provided services such as daycare, education and healthcare in an effort to alleviate poverty. More than 100 years after their founding, Kingdom House continues to provide critical social services to the poorest of the poor in St. Louis. It is proud to be a charter member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

NewHouse, Kansas City, MO

In 1971, Newhouse was founded by a collaboration of Methodist and Presbyterian women to support women experiencing domestic violence. In response, they formed NEWS (Neighborhood Ecumenical Witness and Service) and began working together to respond to the need. Initially, NEWS provided neighborhood programs including substance abuse education as well as food and clothing assistance. The need for shelter became evident as abused women repeatedly requested a place to escape from the domestic violence in their homes. In 1971, NewHouse moved from a small residential house into a renovated 88-bed facility.

STAYING CONNECTED

Subscriptions

District UMW Newsletter:

Shirley Link: dslink@ktis.net; 573-295-4640

Mission Voice - MO Conference UMW Newsletter

To read past copies or subscribe individually or within a group: <http://www.moumethodist.org/missionvoice>

National UMW e-News and Newsletter:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

- Click on the website link or copy and paste it into your search engine search line
- Click on “News” on the top bar of the home page
- Choose “UMW Newsletter” or “Subscribe to e-news” or subscribe to both of them

Response Magazine

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New World Outlook

<https://www.umcmmission.org/find-resources/new-world-outlook>