



Church of the Saviour United Methodist Women

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 9:00 a.m.

Room 121 (*childcare available*)



GENERAL MEETING

(childcare available)

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 10:00 a.m.

Church Parlor

Chapel Devotions and Lunch follow program.

Children for Sale

presented by Amanda Marshall

Children for Sale: Foreign and Domestic Trafficking in Persons

The talk will delve into the issue of human trafficking, the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Learn about the problem on global, national and local levels and what you can do to help.

During the summer of 2009 Amanda Marshall was the Client Services and Outreach Fellow for Polaris Project, a leading international anti-human trafficking agency in Washington D.C. She worked directly with women who have been trafficked and also raised awareness and educated youth in detention facilities in the inner city. Amanda received extensive training from both current and former State Department Ambassadors, as well as other anti-trafficking professionals who have been on the cutting edge of the movement since 2002. Amanda is currently a trained facilitator of human trafficking awareness through the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition and operates her own awareness program called "Lost & Found."



FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20

You may remember that when our pastors have spoken about their paths to ordination, one of the questions that they are asked by the “questioning committee” is “Do you feel that you are on the path to perfection?” While I am neither on the path to ordination, nor do I ever expect to be, I do understand that all Christians come to the faith as novices and proceed along a path that, with God’s grace, leads to a greater understanding of the faith. The path for lay people may not lead to perfection, but it may lead to discernment about how to lead Christian lives.

As I wondered about the various paths that people take in their faith, I thought of special nuns in the time of Hildegard of Bingham (who visited Church of the Saviour last October 9 as part of the Myers Lecture series). It was not unusual in the 12th century for a nun to be cloistered, essentially locked in lifetime, solitary confinement. Such a woman may have been educated and healers, but they also spent much time in prayer.

I thought of people in more recent centuries, as well as today, who go to outdoor settings alone to “commune with nature.” These folk sometimes say that they are searching for God, and perhaps they do find evidence of a higher being as they settle their minds on eternal things.

But, I also remember the Bible verse, *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them* from Matthew 18, verse 20 (NIV). If this is a true statement, and as a direct quotation from Jesus, it certainly is, then how can someone in a solitary setting find God? How often have we heard from pulpits that joining in worship with others is extremely important for our spiritual development? This does not mean that solitary Bible study or worship alone when there is no other option is not effective. It may just not be the best option. I have noticed a distinct feeling of seeming closer to God when singing, praying and listening to scripture in a “community” setting rather than in a solitary setting. Have you?

People gathering together for worship, study, choir, or a variety of mission activities are similar to families. These gatherings are where love is nourished and where people care for one another. That’s why we remember by name those in our “family” who are not with us for any number of reasons. That’s why we visit and send cards to those who are ill or rejoice with others as they celebrate happy events.

February is the month when love is emphasized in the secular world. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors. Love in our church community and for those outside our church is emphasized every day of the year. I’ve come to believe that love is more easily expressed in community.

Arleen Twist

UMW Leadership Training is February 25

Leadership Training for the North Coast District United Methodist Women will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012, at Mt. Pleasant UMC in Brunswick. A continental breakfast will start at 9 a.m., and the program will start at 9:30 a.m.

There will be two speakers about the Nehemiah Mission and the conference of the UMW in Louisiana this past summer. Next, the group will divide into sections by office held and meet with other peers for discussion and training. The meeting will conclude by 12 noon. I encourage everyone to attend. There is no charge for this morning meeting. Sign up with Carol Broadbent at: 216-360-0465 or cbroadbent56@att.net.

2012 CIRCLE MEETINGS

Edna Rhodes Circle

February 28 - Haiti video.

Bring sack lunch with dessert and beverage provided. 12:30 p.m., Parlor

Martha Circle

February 28 – Book review with Frances Fisher
She will review *Porch Talk* by Phillip Gulley.



Mom's Circle

February 14 - UMW meeting

February 17 - Play group, 10:00, Great Hall

February 22 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper sponsored by the Co-Op, 5:30 p.m., Calvary Hall

Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 2011, we had a balance of \$12,005.20, with all bills paid.

Please remember that at the February 14 General Meeting we will collect the Prayer and Self Denial offering.

Education for Mission



The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will convene in Tampa, Florida from April 24 to May 4, 2012. "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ to Transform the World" is the theme of the quadrennial meeting of the United Methodist Church's highest legislative body.

The 1,000 member assembly considers revisions to church law and adopts resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church wide programs for the next four years. Pray for General Conference, its planners, presenters, participants and issues to be addressed.

Pray for the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women. Women Delegates from East Ohio Conference who will be attending are: Leah Andrews, Sebring, OH; Maggie Jackson, Cleveland, OH; Cynthia Patterson, Cuyahoga Falls, OH; Jane Ruggles, Ashland, OH; Valerie Stultz, Berea/Akron, OH; Jessica Vargo, Akron, OH.

Information from January 2012 issue of "Response" Magazine

Frances Fisher

MISSION NEWS

Camphor Mission – Liberia

My third trip to Camphor mission in Liberia will be from February 11 through March 11. I will stay in the long term section of the Judith Olin Guest House. There will be many volunteers in and out from North Coast District while I am there. My plan is to train the part-time librarian, Esther, and to hold teacher training at Camphor for teachers who will come the 15 miles from the nearest town of Buchanan. The 3 C's (The East Ohio Conference Bishop's mission project) will finance their transportation and food for the workshop.

EMBROIDERY HOOPS and THREAD - Do you have hoops, thread, needles and/or scissors that you no longer use for embroidery? I am looking for these items to take with me to Liberia in February. I plan to continue with my sewing ladies and add some new women also. Hoops no larger than 8 inches are welcome. I can take only one suitcase this trip, so I need to be very selective about what I pack. I need donations by February 5th to plan my packing.

Thank you, *Kevin L. Schaner*

Haiti Knitting Project

Janet Benish is still looking for people who may be interested in teaching continental-style knitting to women in DonDon, Haiti. A trip begins on February 28 and lasts one week. Another trip is planned for the fall.

Janet needs someone proficient at continental knitting or willing to learn (it's easy) and become proficient. Then, the knitting teacher will need to practice with a volunteer non-knitter using only the written instructions and live demonstrations.

If you are interested in this knitting project, please contact Janet at drmomjb@gmail.com or by phone at 216-752-5329. Janet asks that you keep the people of Haiti in your prayers.

Social Action

Did you know that:

Each year 300,000 women are raped in America?

The poverty rate among women climbed to 4.5 percent in 2010?

Reports indicate that nearly one third of women serving in the U.S. military have been raped with over two thirds having been otherwise sexually assaulted?

The number of children and teens in America killed by guns could fill 120 classrooms of 25 students each?

16 in every 1,000 U.S. women have been threatened with a gun?

In 2010 the FBI's annual Hate Crimes Statistics report indicated that 66.6% of victims of ethnically motivated crimes were targeted because of anti-Hispanic bias

13.5% of American women 18 and over are in poor or fair health?

The statistics above are hard to believe. As United Methodist Women we need to be praying and voting when we have the opportunity to do so.

Information from United Methodist Women's Social Action Network

Frances Fisher