

The Link



United Methodist Women
Volume XLVI Issue 4
October, 2009

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

Another Note from Anne:

KEEP YOUR FORK

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given 3 months to live. So as she was getting her things in order, she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him what songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said. "What's that?" came the pastor's reply. "This is very important," the woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The pastor stood looking at the woman not knowing what to say. "This surprises you, doesn't it?" the woman asked. "Well, to be honest with you, I am puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The woman explained, "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say – Keep your fork. It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming.....like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie.....something wonderful and with substance!"

"So, I just want people to see me there in the casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then I would like you to tell them, "Keep the fork – the best is yet to come!"

So the next time you reach to pick up your fork, let it remind you, oh so gently, that ***the best is yet to come.***

--- Anne



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.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 4 Women's Day at New Beginnings UMC in Camden

October 4 Cherry Hill CROPWALK

October 14 Gateway South Dist. UMW Fall Meeting at Woodlyne UMC

In-gathering of baby/toddler items for Robin's Nest

October 16 and 17 BAZAAR in Wesley Hall

October 24 Conference UMW Fall Meeting St. Paul's UMC, Brick, NJ

November 16 LINK ARTICLES DUE

SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE 2009 YEARBOOK:

Please add:

Elizabeth Circle: Christel Gmunder, 42 Kite Ct., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 Phone: 609-587-3039

Please change email address:

Marilyn Ivers marilynmi@verizon.net

Please remove the names of these friends who have passed away:

Sarah Circle: Fran Patterson

Associate member: Janet Bushong

Circle Friends: Clarence and Elizabeth Beck and Ottar Grundvig

Affiliate Member: Charlotte Roohr

MISSIONS – POSSIBLE!!!!

Our UMW Unit is involved in so many mission endeavors! We are using this column to highlight areas in which you may wish to become involved.

THE BAZAAR & FLEA MARKET: Many hours will be spent sorting and setting up over the summer months in preparation for the BIG MISSION EVENT in October. Watch the bulletin for scheduled work days! Please let any of the Booth Chairpersons know if you are interested in helping out! This event is such a wonderful fundraiser because so many people become involved and work together for the Glory of God! (Please note: the attached flyer has some changes from the one that came out in April.)

IMAGE AND ATTITUDE IS COLLECTING FALL AND WINTER BUSINESS APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AT THIS TIME.

Donations – on hangars only – may be left in the designated area of the coat rack in the narthex. Dot Lauer (797-2016) and Lois Hill (797-1702) can answer any questions you may have about this mission.

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NEWS FROM OUR CIRCLES

Sarah Circle

Co-leaders: **Barbara Brown and Kaye Hardin**
Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

September, 2009: Sarah Circle met on the 8th of this month having the distinction of gathering as one of the first groups to meet in the newly refurbished lounge. It was beautiful and so elegant in its brown tones. All we could say as a group was wow! Thanks to the committee who put all of it together for the whole church.

We were small in number this month due to the many conflicts that members encountered -- scheduling, not feeling well, and other meetings that were being held in the same time slot. All have said that we will try to do better as the year draws to an end. The program prepared by Claudia Sacharok was outstanding and we were enlightened about the life of these biblical women and the role they played in the life of Jesus. This is the fourth study she has prepared and hopefully in the near future a folder can be presented to the church library for inclusion in the collection.

Barbara Brown, Reporter

Esther Circle

Co-leaders: Grace Beck & Gloria Wilcock
Meets the second Thursday of every month at noon

June, 2009 -- Our Esther Circle Special luncheon was at Kunkle's in Haddon Heights. We had six members and two very special guests present, our President, Anne Thompson and Pastor Gina. It's always a pleasure to have such special guests join us. Two of our members, Grace and Connie, could not attend and were greatly missed. The restaurant was a delightful place even on a rainy day.

While we waited for lunch, Dot passed around several cards for us to sign for our Circle friends. Pastor Gina said grace and we enjoyed our lunch and fellowship. Gloria, in a very brief meeting, reminded us of some of the upcoming events we may want to keep in mind: Melissa Shukdinas speaking about her mission trip to Zarapa after service on June 14; School of Christian Mission July 10, 11, 12 in Lakewood, NJ; and Mission Activity-Salad Supper in September. After a leisurely lunch topped off by a coffee or tea break, we ended with Gloria passing out copies of *The Link*.

What an enjoyable way to spend our last meeting. Enjoy your summer. Our next meeting will be in September.

Mary Vona, Reporter

Because the date was changed, several of our members were not able to be at the meeting so we were just five plus our president. We enjoyed being on Kathryn's lovely enclosed porch. She served a Jewish Apple Cake made from a favorite recipe....it was delicious!!!

Many of us hadn't been together over the summer so there was lots of conversation...(several at the same time!)

Grace conducted our meeting, telling us about the news in Anne's president's notes....I read from the Prayer Calendar...

We collected canned peaches for the food pantry....signed up to work at the Bazaar and signed cards for our circle friends.

Grace had the program ...she always does such a good job....and Claudia's program about seven lesser known Bible women was excellent...we learned things about them that we never heard before and it made for a lively conversation. They all had something to teach us.

We look forward to October and meeting again.

September, 2009 -- Esther Circle had their first meeting of the autumn at Kathryn Phillip's house.

Gloria Wilcock, Reporter

Elizabeth Circle

Jill Mayo, Leader

Meets the second Sunday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

September 13, 2009: There were 9 members at our September meeting. Jill covered announcements as we waited for everyone to arrive. She then opened with a prayer and followed with another one of her awesome devotions from an email that was sent to her (see below). We then recapped the June meeting and after some discussion decided that going forward, our circle meetings would focus on a study of Rick Warren's "A Purpose Driven Life" followed by an abbreviated version of the UMW monthly program. We also discussed bringing our group closer together by sharing prayer needs, joys and other news with the group throughout the month via email.

Our discussion was followed by Claudia Sacharok's program "Women of the Bible" led by Beth Cribben. It was a very enlightening program that we all agreed we could spend several meetings discussing. We all enjoyed singing "Spirit of the Living God" led by Robin Bristow & Sara Joslin at the end of the program. Thanks girls!

We ended with prayer concerns and a closing prayer offered by Sue Karra.

Beth Cribben, Reporter

Count Your Blessings

I dreamt that I went to heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side by side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the receiving section. Here all petitions to God said in prayer are received." I looked around in this area and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world. Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packed for delivery down at earth. Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there idly doing nothing. "This is the **Acknowledgement Section.**" My angel friend quietly

admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there's no work going on here?" I asked. "So sad," the angel sighed, "after people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgements." "How does one acknowledge God's Blessings?" I asked. "Simple," the angel answered. "Just say thank you Lord." "What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you get this on your own computer, you are part of 1% in the world that has that opportunity.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.

If you have never experienced the fear of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are envied by and more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you can hold your head up and smile you are not the norm, you are unique to all those in doubt and despair.

Ok, what now? Where can I start?

If you received this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day and count your blessings!

Beth Cribben, Reporter

Ruth Circle

Leader: Marion Young

Meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

June, 2009 – It was a VERY rainy night when Ruth Circle met at the restaurant of the month, Pizzicato's, for our "dinner out". We were happy to have Roxanne LaRoc and Pastor Gina with us for this fun evening. Food and fellowship was wonderful as we gathered around the table to eat and laugh. We are all looking forward to busy summer months, vacation traveling and family togetherness.

September, 2009 – Ruth Circle met in Wesley Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 9th with 9 present.

After Marion offered an opening prayer and welcomed all of us back, we remembered several ill people plus our missionaries and Circle Friends. Helene, our Sunshine person, had cards for us to sign for them.

We are sharing responsibilities with Sarah Circle the Salad Supper and Mission Event on September 21st so we discussed all that we will be doing.

Marion reminded us of upcoming events: Friends Helping Friends at Boscov's on Oct. 6th

with tickets available from Anne Thompson. Proceeds will benefit the Neighborhood Center; Nov. 13th will be the Collingswood Manor Bazaar; and we were reminded to bring clothing to our October meeting to send to the Springer's in Kentucky.

We talked about the upcoming Bazaar and signed up to work in various booths.

Nancy Seely led us through the wonderful program created by Claudia Sacharok about some unknown women of the Bible. Nancy created a beautiful focal point on the table and we all participated in reading the various parts. Thank you to Claudia for creating the program and to Nancy for presenting it to us.

I provided refreshments and we enjoyed sitting around the table and "catching up".

Marilyn Ivers, Reporter

Mary Circle

Leader: Karen Owens

Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m.

We are sorry to say that Mary Circle is no longer meeting.