



The UMW Voice
The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

October 2018

Martha Hendricks editor 586-6389 myhendricks@icloud.com

Spiritually Speaking

Brenda Anderson-Baker

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

I call myself a Christian. I pray. I go to church. I read my Bible (occasionally, anyway). But lately I have been living my life as if it's all up to me, as if I am the only one capable of juggling the way-too-many balls I have in the air at this moment.

Parker Palmer, the Quaker author and educator, calls this state of mind "functional atheism." He describes it like this: "...the belief that ultimate responsibility for everything rests with us. This is the unconscious, unexamined conviction that if anything decent is going to happen here, we are the ones who must make it happen—a conviction held even by people who talk a good game about God."

So, there I am – busted. I talk a good game about God, but I always think that I am the one who must make everything happen. Ouch.

A tight deadline at work? More coffee, please. What if, instead, I prayed to God for focus and clarity so that my work time might be more productive and creative?

A long checkout line at Costco? Instead of fuming, could I find ways to make that time contribute to my well-being? I could pray for the people in line ahead of me, I could be grateful that I can afford the items in my cart, I could ask for patience and peace of mind.

Jesus showed us how to live on earth. He came to live amidst the ordinary lives of ordinary humans like us. If we pay attention, he will show us how to live today. Why is that so hard for me to recognize? Why is it so hard to call on him when I'm cooking or working or driving? When I'm frustrated or anxious or angry?

Jesus said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." Can I hear in those words an encouraging message for me? Maybe what he's really saying to me today is this: "My child, turn around. What you're doing now is not working. Look around you. This world is the Kingdom too, and you get to be a part of it. Rejoice, celebrate, and use the gifts I've given you to help turn your corner of this kingdom into a beautiful place. I'm with you, I'll help you, I am with you always."

Well. That just might change everything. And that would be a very good thing.

Great Day at Grace UMC in Dillon

United Methodist Women celebrated the power of storytelling, how it connects us to God and to one another, at the Western Mountains District gathering in Dillon on September 15. We were reminded that Jesus taught through stories, and we are to tell the story of his love.

Activities ranged from a speaker in 1800's attire presenting stories of the legendary pioneer Methodist exhorter popularly known as Brother Van to video clips of a master storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee to participants sharing brief stories from their own lives. For the latter, participants were invited to choose from a wide range of objects the one that particularly spoke to them and then tell a story about why it appealed.

Throughout the day, we laughed, we cried, our hearts were touched. We sang, we worshipped, and conducted necessary business. There was opportunity to buy books and/or take free ones others had brought to share. Our hostesses prepared delicious food and presented each guest a quilted goody bag which they had created and filled with information. Women of Salmon, Idaho UMW provided bags of snacks for the road as we departed for home. Jeannie Haight, Jackie Montgomery, and I agreed it was one of the best district meetings ever.

Submitted by Gloria Zimmer

Mission u: Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

We had two Mission u options this year, July or August. What an excellent learning opportunity that anyone would appreciate. Under the excellent leadership of Peg Plinton and Janet Ulrich, we first explored our personal and corporate responses to those around us and to current issues. Next we tackled finances in the context of our faith. How do we live closer to God and God's people, even in our culture that is so deeply defined by money? These were challenging and rewarding studies.

Submitted by Jeannie Haight

Good Reads!

UMW Members have donated books from their Reading Program to our church library for years. You will find books for inspiration and about social issues and mission projects in geographic areas around the world.

With our nation's need to improve the immigration process, I recently re-read the national bestseller, Enrique's Journey. Pulitzer Prize Winner Sonia Nazario reported the trip of a boy from Honduras seeking his mother in the United States. She bravely traveled hundreds of miles atop a freight train to actually experience details about risks and dangers in the true story of Enrique and thousands of other young boys each year.

I recommend reading this book, or another in our library, about today's world to gain understanding amid the complexity of issues in the news.

Submitted by Jackie Montgomery

October is Pledge Month: Pledge to Mission Giving for 2019

October is a time to reflect on giving to support the Mission of UMW

United Methodist Women: Turning Financial Gifts into Miracles for Women, Children and Youth

United Methodist Women is trusted with pledges and donations from individual members and local member organizations, as well as mission partners and anonymous donors who have a heart for mission. We support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth - thereby impacting entire communities. As an agency of The United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women abides by the social principles and discipline as determined by General Conference, giving only to projects in accordance with those guidelines. (From the UMW website)

Don't forget! UMW Women's Treasure Tea Sunday November 4 at 2pm in the Friendship Room

October UMW Calendar and dates to remember

October 9 Tuesday Mission Team Meeting Friendship Room, 10:00am –noon

October 15 Monday Inkspots at the home of Martha Hendricks email myhendricks@icloud.com for information

October 16 Tuesday Newly Retired Group, IHOP, 10:00am

October 17 Wednesday Miriam-Ruth Circle church conference room 9:30-11am Trinity Circle Fireside Room 1:15pm

October 25 Thursday Noon Luncheon Group noon-1pm church conference room