
NEWS OF THE CIRCLES

September, 2009

Here Am I, Send Me!

Karen Bevill is the President of the United Methodist Women of Jasper FUMC and Vice-President of the Southwest District of United Methodist Women for the 2009-2011 term. Karen is the wife of Don Bevill. She is the proud mother and grandmother of four children and seven grandchildren.



Karen was born in Fort Payne, Alabama, and was the oldest in a family of three daughters. Spending most of her life in DeKalb County, she has a great appreciation for the home and family values she learned at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. From her parents, she learned the art of compromise. Her father was an ardent Democrat, and her mom an equally ardent Republican. Her great grandfather

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In Loving Memory

Susanna Wesley Mother of Methodism

It has often been said, "Behind every successful man is a woman." This statement certainly applies to John Wesley and his mother, Susanna, who loved, taught and encouraged her children. Susanna Wesley never preached a sermon or founded a church. Yet, she is known as the Mother of Methodism because of the strong influence she had on her sons, John and Charles. This past year, 2008, commemorated two hundred years of the Methodist faith in America. Let us examine Susanna Wesley and the role she played in preparing her son for the ministry.

Susanna Annesley was the youngest in a family of twenty-six children. The daughter of a minister, she also married a minister, Samuel Wesley, and bore nineteen children. Susanna was no stranger to adversity. Only ten of her nineteen children lived to become adults. The lack of money was a constant source of trouble for the large family. Her husband was not good at money management. He even spent time in debtors' prison. Susanna had to take control of the family's finances. The couple had differing political views and Reverend Wesley left his wife and children for over a year because of a political dispute. To add to their problems, on two separate occasions the homes in which they lived were destroyed by fire. Following the second fire, the children were placed in different homes for nearly two years while the rectory was rebuilt.

Despite her problems, Susanna found a way to love and nurture her family. She believed in education and home schooled her children in both academic and religious studies. The children's formal teaching began at age five and they spent six hours in class each day. All of the children received training in Latin, Greek and classical studies.

Susanna Wesley must have been good at multi-tasking. In addition to managing her household and home schooling her children, she gave individual attention to each child. She granted one hour per week to

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was a Methodist minister; and many family members have been active in the ministry and mission field.

After graduating from Plainview High School as class valedictorian, Karen graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in elementary education and a concentration in library science. The funds she was awarded as DeKalb County Junior Miss were helpful in completing her studies. Karen spent three years as librarian at Verner Elementary in Tuscaloosa before returning to DeKalb County School System. During this time, she continued her studies at the University of Alabama and received a Master's Degree in School Administration. Karen recalls with pride that her first assignment as principal was at the school where she began first grade, Sylvania High School. She even remembers feeling the same mixed emotions of excitement and apprehension that she had felt as a first grader on her first day of school. She had come full circle. During the last ten years of her career in education, Karen served as Assistant Superintendent of the DeKalb County School System. Valuable lessons she learned during this time were to be consistent and to be a good listener. These skills were used daily as she worked with parents, teachers, administrators and students.

The new millennium was a time of change for Karen. She and Don Bevill moved to Jasper, and Karen joined our church where Don's parents, Congressman Tom and Lou Bevill, reared their family. While in Jasper, Karen served for five years as the Executive Director of Concerned Citizens for Youth, which encompassed Beacon House and the Murphy Shelter. While husband Don remains busy in his law practice, Karen finds time for reading, gardening, and heirloom needle work. She also enjoys genealogy and has found the internet very helpful in tracing her ancestry.

As president of United Methodist Women, Karen plans to place a strong emphasis on prayer. She realizes the importance of gleaning from active members in order to continue the traditions that have been established. She also hopes to increase membership by finding innovative ways to involve the members. Her love for reading is already evident in the books circle member are reading. A new circle, the Book Circle, has been formed. Those attending the general meetings on the first Monday of each month have enjoyed the music and nurturing additions to the program.

Karen Bevill remains active in family, church and community. She states that Isaiah 6:8 has been a guiding force in her life. "And I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." As we go forward together as Methodist women, may we answer our Lord's call to the needs of local and global concerns with this response: Here am I! Send me."

by Charlene Stephenson

Anchors in Faith

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..." (Hebrews 6:19). A beautiful stained glass window in a Sunday school class off the balcony honors the women of the Palmer family. The window, which depicts an anchor, recognizes Mrs. Sallie Palmer and her daughter, Jennie Lou. It was donated by Mrs. Palmer's daughter, Thomasine. Just as an anchor holds a ship in place, the Palmer ladies' lifelong service, support and leadership helped to anchor the First United Methodist Church.

Church history records that Mrs. Sallie Palmer was a charter member and vice-president of the Foreign Missionary Society, which first met in September of 1888. From this small group of fifteen women has evolved our current United Methodist Women organization. She was also influential in organizing the first Sunday school class for youth, which was called "Class Number Seven." Her greatest contribution, however, was the example she set for daughters, Jennie Lou and Thomasine, who served the church in many capacities. Although neither of the Palmer sisters married or had children, they were dedicated to the Children's Sunday school department. Dot McAdams, a life long church member recalls her pride when she was promoted from the primary department to the junior department. The assembly, which met in the Easter Wing, was presided over by Miss Jennie Lou Palmer. Miss Thomasine played the piano as the newly promoted juniors sang a hearty chorus of "Onward Christian Soldiers."

New York City has the Empire State building. San Francisco has the Golden Gate Bridge. Jasper has First United Methodist Church. A sketch of the church would be incomplete without the cupola and cross. It has been used on stationery, note cards and our church bulletins. The cross was given to the church in honor and memory of Mrs. Sallie Palmer by her daughters, Jennie Lou and Thomasine Palmer.

The Palmer sisters will also be remembered for the role they played to advance women's rights. Without the benefit of an advanced education or law school, they studied on their own, passing the bar exam. They became lawyers and worked at the court house. This was an age when few women entered the business world.

This year, 2009, launches our one hundred twenty-first year of organized women's service at First United Methodist Church of Jasper. As an old hymn states, "In times like these, we need an anchor." Let us anchor our lives in Christ and follow the example of service so willingly provided by the women of the Palmer family.

(Revised from "*A White Marble Church*"
by Charlene Stephenson)

We're Already Talking About Christmas!



Mona Johnian, of Franklin, Tennessee, has written more than 30 books, is a playwright, a composer of copious amounts of music from various genres including show tunes, country, gospel, ballads, Latin, Asian, traditional and contemporary Christian. Since 1998, she has written 11 musical dramas, one of which was produced Off-Broadway in New York. Mona is also an artist who tells a story on three-dimensional art forms, with beautiful design and characters. Her style is realism that hints of the Renaissance, yet totally unique to the world. Each piece is a one-of-a-kind intriguing form. Each form is produced on canvas and retouched by the artist for framing. There is nothing quite like it.

We are privileged to have Mona Johnian as our guest speaker at our annual UMW Christmas Luncheon, which will be held in our fellowship hall on Monday, December 7. Tickets will be available at the October circle meetings.

SAVE THE DATE!

**United Methodist Women
Assembly 2010**

April 30-May 2, St. Louis, Missouri
Stay tuned to umwmission.org for more details!

each of the children. The time she invested in her children assured her that each one knew the Lord and was growing spiritually. Despite her busy schedule, she spent two hours each day in prayer. In order to accomplish this seemingly impossible task, she organized her children to be responsible for each other. If she could not find a quiet place for prayer, she pulled her apron over her head and made her own sanctuary.

"Her children rise up and call her blessed." (Proverbs 31:29) "From her loving home came a son, John Wesley, who would experience a spiritual awakening and change the course of English history by initiating nations-wide revival. In fact, it could be said that the Methodist movement had its very foundations formed in the home of Susanna Wesley." (quote from Amazing Moms). As we begin the third century of Methodism in America, let us continue to advance our faith and remember the legacy of Susanna Wesley, the Mother of Methodism.

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Hamby Antique Booth

If you have items to donate to the UMW booth at the Hamby Antique Mall, please bring them (no clothes, please) to the church and then be sure to let Jean Williams know they are there! Large items (like furniture) are announced at the General Meeting and sometimes sell before they are taken to the booth! Give Jean Williams a call today: 221-5682!



Key Lime Layer Cake

CAKE:

1 box Duncan Hines Lemon Supreme cake mix	1 cup orange juice
1 large box lime Jello	5 eggs
	1 cup oil

Grease and flour three 8" cake pans. Mix orange juice and oil together. Add eggs one at a time. Add dry ingredients. Mix well until smooth. Bake at 325 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Cool before icing.

ICING:

1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese	2 Tbsp. milk
½ cup butter	1 tsp. vanilla
1 box confectioner's sugar	

Mix ingredients together until smooth and creamy. Spread onto cooled cake layers.

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Everyone has a story. True life experiences are often more interesting than fiction. The United Methodist Women would like to gather original stories from women in our congregation for a book, *"Blessed Assurance--Stories of Faith by Women of Faith."* Anyone who would like to participate would be welcomed. Our book can serve as a legacy to our church and as a gift to future generations. Charlene Stephenson, who may be reached at 622-3178 or cms2050@tds.net, is available to meet with anyone needing assistance. If you would like to submit a story, please leave it in the UMW mail box in the church office. Deadline for submission is December 31, 2009.

Here are some suggestions that might make interesting stories:

- Family stories told by your parents or grandparents
- Stories from your childhood or teen years
- Memories of special occasions, such as weddings, birthdays, etc.
- Stories related to your career
- Experiences from rearing your children
- Daily life experiences
- How you have dealt with adversity or personal tragedy
- Activities that relate to FUMC

If you have a Bible verse or photograph which will enhance your story, please submit it as well.

Charlene is excited about this UMW project and looks forward to working with you.



In Loving Memory
Mary Costen Boteler
July 23, 1910 - August 7, 2009



In Loving Memory
Ruth Graham Wright
December 12, 1926 - August 26, 2009

In Loving Memory
Marjorie Powell Wallace
May 9, 1922 - July 23, 2009

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