
NEWS OF THE CIRCLES

December, 2009

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW...

By President Karen Bevill

As I reflect on our United Methodist Women's Organization for 2009, I am so proud of each and every member. We are a part of nearly one million Christian lay women who are united by one spirit and with the goal to "be a community of women whose purpose is to know God; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission." I believe the women of Jasper First United Methodist Church have met these directives.

From January through December, we worked hard to have meaningful programs at each general meeting, circle and special event. The speakers and singers all came at no cost and provided inspiration that brought me to tears more than once. It was especially touching to see some of our own young women stepping up to the podium. Our UMW is blessed with women of all ages. That is what makes our events interesting and rich with different ideas.

In summary this year, we have had a total of 118 women participate as members, and also many visitors. With five circles, we are one of the largest units in our district and possibly the state. Our circle leaders are truly gifted, dedicated women who work tirelessly to make each month's circle meeting interesting, worthwhile and fun. This year we added a Lunch Circle whose primary goal was to be a part of the UMW Reading program. This allowed working women to become involved. My hat goes off to the Circle Leaders, as they are the backbone of this organization. Not once did a circle leader ever refuse a request from the Executive

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SPRING TASTING FAIR AND FASHION SHOW

"Food and fashion, a recipe for fun!"

Our menu was a success for a party truly blessed!"

The Spring Tasting Fair and Fashion Show was held on Monday, May 4, and was a huge success. Many recipes featured in our "Under the Dome II" cookbook were available for our guests to roam from table to table to sample and enjoy. After the tasting, the real fun began with our own United Methodist Women presenting their interpretations in fashion!



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Committee or from me. I thank you all for your service and enthusiasm.

Our two traditional luncheons, Spring and Christmas, were absolutely awesome! The event coordinator, Cheri Russell, came through with themes that were fun and provided record breaking profits for our mission funds. The Spring "Tasting Fair and Fashion Show" was so well received that we literally didn't have room for all the guests. The Christmas Luncheon too was a sell out with some of the most beautiful tables ever. Special thanks to Dell Franklin, Cheryl Proctor, Angie Lewis and Charlene Stephenson for the kitchen detail - the food got rave reviews. The only issue we had at both events was an over-flowing crowd. What a great problem to have!

In addition to these two special events, we hosted a formal tea for our new District Superintendent; coordinated community Holy Week services at our church; assisted with the Heritage Day program at our church; participated in the Festival of Trees; maintained a booth at Hamby Antique Mall (special thanks to Jean Williams); repaired old and made new Chrismons (special thanks to Mary Ann Seel); began a committee to encourage our church library use; and started a book to be a compilation of our own women's stories to hopefully be available in 2010 entitled "Blessed Assurance" (special thanks to Charlene Stephenson). We continued to collect soup labels to benefit the Methodist Children's Home. Our grand total of giving to global and local missions for 2009 was over \$9,000!

As I began this year, I knew I had the support not only of last year's President, Barbara Wilson, but also a group of officers that were capable and willing to use their talents. Each one was so special to me. Billie Seales is the best ever person to have as your friend and helper. Sabrina Keating always, always kept me informed of our financial situation, provided super-natural encouragement and also spear-headed our cookbook sales. Susan Branstetter has worked so hard to keep our events in the news and served as editor and publisher of our own UMW newsletter.

Let me take this opportunity to tell each of you that the LORD has blessed me this year with each one of you. I will never take for granted the smiles, calls, e-mails, and consideration that you have given me this year as you did our Lord's work. I would like to end with a verse that comes to my mind as I think of you.

"Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha...She was devoted to good works and acts of charity." Acts 9:36

*In Loving Memory
of
Nancy Studdard Freeman*



So, don't expect to be able to run out and buy these fashions off the rack! They are truly designer one-of-a-kinds!

From the top:

Ann Davis is in the holiday spirit wearing her "Christmas Dress."

Daisy Aldridge is prepared for the biggest of messes in her "Scrubs."

Beth Adams is utterly marvelous in her "MooMoo."

Charlene Stephenson is proud to present her "Feed Sack Dress."

Diane Fender models the latest in "Pillbox Hats."

Linda Murphy is, well, I think she called herself a "Hoochie-mama," and if you could see those hot pink boots, you would agree!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF TWO SPECIAL LADIES!

Every year the United Methodist Women have the difficult task of choosing fellow members who deserve extra recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty. This year the job wasn't so difficult. Barbara Wilson proved to be a valuable source of guidance and assistance to our incoming president, Karen Bevill, who depended heavily upon Barbara's leadership and wisdom. Cheri Russell, our "Events Coordinator Extraordinaire," has worked hard all year and has pulled off some fantastically fun and profitably affairs. Congratulations Barbara and Cheri, two extra special United Methodist Women!



LOCAL MISSION AWARDS

Beacon House	Crisis Pregnancy Center
Daybreak	FUMC Preschool
Hope Clinic	Jasper Family Services
Kid One	Missions Unlimited
Salvation Army	UMC Therapeutic Foster Care

\$5,600 DONATED LOCALLY IN 2009!

It was fun to sample those "tried and true" recipes from the cookbook presented by some of the best cooks in town!

2009 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The first United Methodist Women Christmas Luncheon at FUMC was held in the mid 1970's. Profits from the luncheon each year are contributed to the White Christmas fund for the United Methodist Children's Home in Selma, Alabama. From this thirty-year tradition, thousands of dollars have been raised for a worthy cause.

The Christmas luncheon is always eagerly anticipated by our members and their guests. This year's theme, "Light the World," was revealed in seventeen unique and elegantly decorated tables. Guests were treated to a delicious holiday meal prepared by our own Dell Franklin and by Circle members.

It has been said that a feast is a meal prepared in love. This is certainly true of our United Methodist Women's luncheon. The success of the luncheon was the result of many members working together to sell tickets, decorate, cook, serve and clean. Fellowship, good food, and one hundred forty smiling faces made the luncheon of 2009 a beautiful Christmas memory.



SCENES FROM THE LUNCHEON:



Sisters in life, Sisters in Christ! The beauty was found in more than just the table settings! Below, speaker Mona Johnian, signed copies of her books. Right, The lovely ladies of The Palah Dance Ministry.



AUNT LOU'S BREAD PUDDING

(Serves 15-20)

7 c. milk (can use part ½ & ½) 1 ½ tsp. vanilla
6 eggs, well beaten 1 lg. loaf French bread,
1 c. sugar cut in 1" cubes
½ tsp. salt ½ c. butter

Optional Ingredients

1 c. raisins 1 tsp. cinnamon
1 c. coconut flakes 1 c. chopped pecans
6 ripe bananas, sliced

Preheat oven to 400. Warm 6 c. milk & the butter. Place bread in a buttered 11X15 pan. (Add optional items at this point) In large bowl, mix eggs, sugar, 1 c. milk, salt & vanilla. Slowly pour the warmed milk & butter into the egg mixture, stirring constantly. Pour milk mixture over the bread cubes and allow to soak for a few minutes. Bake 45-55 minutes until light brown & slightly crusty.

Bourbon Sauce

¾ c. sugar dash of salt
¼ c. water 1 egg, well beaten
½ c. butter 3 T. bourbon
½ tsp. vanilla

Cook sugar, water and butter over medium heat until boiling. Mix in salt & vanilla. Pour mixture into egg, whipping while pouring. Add bourbon, mix well, and serve over bread pudding.

THREE OF OUR CIRCLES

posed for pictures at their Thanksgiving Luncheons!
The Aldridge/Seel Circle, The Adams/Johnston Circle,
and the Stephenson/Ferrell Circle. JOIN US!



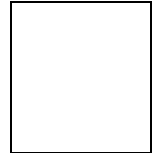
**COMING ON JANUARY 11,
2010**

9:00 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m. Joint Circle/General Meeting

Special Guest from the Jasper Family Services

United Methodist Women
1800 Third Avenue
Jasper, AL 35501



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

