

United Methodist Women

... reaching out in love ...

April 2017

Purpose of UMW – 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.

Important Dates and Events

UMW General Meeting

April 6th, 10:00 am, South Lounge

Program – Homeless Update

Guest Speaker: Mr. Munoz

Mary Martha Fellowship Group

April 4th, 7:00 pm, South Lounge

Theme – “Easter Hats and Baskets”

Hostesses – Jan Ballard, Vicki Johnson

Wesley Ann Circle

April 20th, 1:00 pm, South Lounge

Program – Barbara Giasone “Life of a

Volunteer Fullerton Police Officer”

Hostess – Vicki Johnson

May 2nd, 7:00 pm, South Lounge

Theme - “May Pole, May Baskets and

and Butterflies”

Hostesses - Sandi Hoffner and Jan Hickenbottom

Heart to Heart Circle

May 16th, 6:00 pm, South Lounge

United Methodist Women new circle for all ages

Fellowship and Worship

Bring an appetizer to share

Kim Galea and Breezie Potter - organizers

East District Spiritual Growth Meeting and Quiet Disciple Awards

Shining Your Light

April 22, 2017 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Victorville UMC

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Amanda Burr

Registration Fee \$12.00 includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch

Reservations Due before April 8th

RSVP to Eileen Jackson

UMW Reading Program

An inspiring book from the 2017 Reading List is **Global Girlfriends** by Stacy Edgar. The book is full of facts such as 1.3 billion people live on less than one dollar per day and 70 % of them are women. Stacy received a tax refund of \$2,000.00 in 2003 and decided to use that money to help

disadvantaged women artisans from around the world find a market for their crafts in the United States.

Stacy had no experience in the global import business, had never been to a foreign country, had no passport, had a husband and three small children, had no business plan, and almost no start-up funds. All she had was a desire to help women get out of poverty. She did know that in the U.S. women control 80% of all consumer purchasing decisions.

She based her company on three core values: the products would be woman-made, fair trade, and eco-friendly. Fair trade means disadvantaged artisans earn a fair living wage for their work and are equipped with business development strategies to foster prosperity and reduce poverty. Her company, Global Girlfriend, would work with artisans to provide a “fair and sustainable wage, equal employment opportunities, healthy and safe working conditions, and ongoing product development and technical assistance.” In other words, she would not just buy and sell their products but would make sure it was a good business and give them any training from which they might benefit.

The book is a fascinating account of how she achieved her goals by meeting up with other fair trade groups and companies striving for the same outcomes. She became a world traveler and visited many artisan groups to actually see their work and make sure it was done according to her core values. Their stories take up most of the book and are fascinating. They were poor but were determined to help their children have food, clothing and shelter and get an education. It is almost unbelievable that Stacy was able to accomplish so much. Obviously she was highly motivated, intelligent, and a hard worker. She also had the support of her husband and young children and her friends. In the nine years before this book was published her company went from a basement operation in her home to a large warehouse in Seattle and connections to many other companies and mergers with two.

A bonus feature of the book is that each chapter begins with a wonderful quote. A few examples are:

“Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.” Helen Keller

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” Albert Einstein

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters, compared to what lies within us.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” Theodore Roosevelt

United Methodist Women News

One of the articles in the current issue explains how United Methodist Women's giving helps rebuild lives devastated by thirty years of internal war in Sri Lanka. Official sources say that there are 86,000 war widows in the country. The Methodist Church's focus on empowering them and affected children led to Shalom: War Widows of Peace. Rev. K. Sumithra Fernando is the Executive Project Coordinator for the Shalom project, which is supported by United Methodist Women Mission Giving. She states, “The project has fostered a considerable degree of understanding between the region's ethnic groups by creating platforms for dialogue, reconciliation and peace activism.” It has also “identified women- headed households of marginalized and vulnerable families and prioritized them to support and empower.” Extreme poverty is the major common factor among the widows and Shalom took initiatives to address that issue. Employment training is another part of the program.



**See you on Thursday at 10:00 am.
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