



# THE JOYFUL NOISE

## UMW Newsletter

DESERT SKIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2019

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### Being a Neighbor

This is the last paragraph from an article in response magazine, called "Responsibly Yours: a Place to Call Home" by Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary of UMW, posted on 9/4/19. Fred Rogers said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" What have you done to help?

United Methodist Women, the needs of immigrants and refugees today call us to pray, act, serve and advocate with care for "the least of these," with Jesus' love for children deeply etched in our hearts. It is a critical time for outreach in our own communities, for support of our national mission institutions, for vigils, phone calls and legislative visits and educational forums on family separation at our borders, ending the school-to-prison pipeline, making sure mothers and children have access to health care and making the environment safe. Just as our foremothers did, let us help people, especially women and children, who come to the United States to find welcome and a place to call home. ~ <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/responsively-yours-a-place-to-call-home>

Our famous Cookie Walk and Craft Show will be DECEMBER 15 with set up on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to make fabulous crafts to donate to our Show or delicious treats for the "Walk". Again, all monies from this venture will go to Sister Jose Women's Center.

### UMW Meeting – Oct. 26

We have all seen on TV those very talented dogs who provide assistance to elderly and handicapped persons by picking up keys, bringing the phone, and other helpful tasks. We are going to learn more about them and a local non-profit which is dedicated to helping older adults and people with disabilities gain independence and improve their quality of life through specialized training of dogs. We will also learn about the important role of service dogs. The organization is Handi-Dogs, Inc., and they will be teaching us about these great dogs and all the other services they offer. Please join us on October 26 in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 for brunch, a brief meeting, and this educational program. ~ Diana Barber



## Meet a fellow UMW member

My name is Adele Edwards. I wrote a profile in June of 2011, but I didn't talk about my background. I have been a member of Desert Skies United Methodist Church for over 20 years, but I wasn't always a United Methodist.

I was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and lived there for two years. My parents divorced and my mom and I flew to St. Louis to live with my grandparents. Besides their apartment, with a Presbyterian church across the street, they owned a small vacation home in Northern Michigan, with a Methodist Church, and a small house in Florida that had an Episcopal Church at the end of the street. My mom took me to church every Sunday, regardless of where we were or the denomination.

My mom remarried when I was 7 and we moved to Florida. I attended the Episcopal Church and became an acolyte in high school. In college, living in Massachusetts, I visited a different church each Sunday. Most were very friendly, hoping to find college students to join their choir. I didn't sing, but I liked the Episcopal Church next door because it had a "youth group" made up of college students. We would share a simple meal prepared by a few of the members and discuss the Bible and theology as we sat and ate dinner.

I married my husband David in my senior year and after graduating, we moved to Falls Church, Va. David had also attended various churches, so we tried a few near Falls Church. Oddly enough, the one we selected wasn't discovered on a Sunday. We found a great preschool program through Trinity United Methodist Church in Alexandria, and decided to give their church a go. It was very friendly, and we really liked the people, so we joined. We attended services and helped run the Sunday School.

When we moved to Tucson in 1998, we joined Desert Skies. It was such a warm and inviting place that we never went anywhere else! I came to my first UMW meeting before I had a job! But I realized I would not be able to attend meetings if they weren't moved to the weekend, so I made a request, and now the General meetings are held on Saturday mornings. I learned there wasn't a UMW newsletter, so I offered to help put one together, arranging the stories, providing others wrote those stories. (Continued on page 5)



Adele Edwards

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"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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"Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same -- with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead." ~ Mother Teresa

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## Fun Playing Bunco

Twenty of our ladies gathered for a salad potluck and a spirited game of Bunco, on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September in the Fellowship Hall. So many delicious salads - no two alike, and I enjoyed every one of them - even a few second helpings. Our ladies who had never played Bunco before discovered that it is a game that can be learned quickly and creates a lot of fun. Our winners were: Jean Popovich, Jeann Fishback (two times), Linda Jakubowski and Amy Anderson. ~Marilyn McKee





Sylvia Flagg

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**UMW Event Calendar – 2019**


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**October**

- 7 - UMW Board Meeting - 10:00 a.m.  
- Room 2
- 8 - Helping Hands - 9:00 a.m. -  
Kitchen
- 14 - Columbus Day Celebrated
- 16 - Zippy 49ers - 9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall
- 26 - UMW General Meeting - 9:15  
a.m. - Fellowship Hall
- 26 - Trunk or Treat - 4 - 6 p.m.
- 31 - Happy Halloween

**November**

- 2 - 6 - Set up for Flea Market Sale -  
Church Campus
- 7 - 9 - Flea Market Sale Days
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 11 - UMW Board Meeting - 10:00  
a.m. - Location TBA
- 16- Joint UMW and UMM Meeting -  
8:15 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
- 19 - All Church Conference - 6:30  
p.m. - Fellowship Hall
- 20 - Zippy 49ers - 9:15 a.m. -  
Fellowship Hall
- 24 - Harvest Festival
- 28 - Happy Thanksgiving

**December – Note Date Changes**

- 14 - Set up for Cookie Walk - 2:00  
p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Kitchen
- 15 - Cookie Walk - 8:00 am. - until ?  
- Fellowship Hall

Watch for info about the M&M  
Circle and their Meeting dates

## UMW Recognition Pins

Sunday, September 29, our Desert Skies United Methodist Women presented two of our church members with Special Mission Recognition pins. The recipients were Sylvia Flagg and Fred Killion who were honored and we felt deserving of this gift for their mission work for our UMW, our church and our community. Sylvia is our Prayer Shawl Coordinator which is one big job, but she also finds time to volunteer in other areas as well. Fred is part of Staff Parish Relations, Missions & Social Concerns, Stewardship Campaign, the Emmaus Community, Youth group leadership and Stephen Ministers. Since Mary Martha Circle was started over 10 years ago, he has graciously been one of our 'muscle men' to help complete our M&M projects. Four years ago, he built our tutoring program with Tanque Verde Elementary School. The M&M Circle funds the tutoring, but it has thrived and helped so many special children because of his experience and guidance. His participation in the Faith Committee of churches with Tanque Verde schools enriches our partnership. Our thanks go out to these two for all they do for all of us. ~ Marilyn McKee and Jeann Fishback

## UMW Meeting – Nov. 16

Saturday, November 16, the Desert Skies United Methodist Women and the Desert Skies United Methodist Men will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:15 a.m. for coffee followed by a brunch at 8:30 a.m. The ladies will be cooking with the men helping us. Following the brunch, Sandee and David Landsburg, former members of our church who return to fellowship with us for a few weeks each year, will be speaking about their "Holy Land Pilgrimage" in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine in June. I have read their travelogue, and it is fascinating. Please join us for a delicious brunch, meet new friends, and enjoy this interesting and intriguing program. All people of the church are invited to attend, whether members of the church or not. Please sign up on the Connect Card in your bulletin if you plan to join us. ~ Marilyn McKee

## Personal Reflection on Time with God

This article first appeared in the October 2013 edition. The need to quiet ourselves for God is just as necessary now as it was 6 years ago.

I know the feeling of calm and peace that comes over me when I sit down for quiet time with God. I know that often the scripture or devotion that I read provides insight or direction for my life struggles. I know that it is impossible for God to give me guidance, if I won't be quiet long enough for Him to speak, or I won't search His word so that He can direct me in that way. So, why is it so hard for me to visit with God on a daily basis?

I'm not talking about quick prayers on the go, or evening prayers as I rest my head on the pillow, or even longer, occasional visits while walking - That, I am able to do fairly consistently. I'm talking about a time of scripture and/or devotional study and really listening for God each day. (Continued on page 5)

## Prayer

### Autumn Months

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,  
may the earlier setting of the sun  
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves  
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air  
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have  
been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that  
death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

Amen.

- *Author Unknown*

~ <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/autumn-prayers>




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"It's not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something. May I suggest that it be creating joy for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of personkind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely." ~ *Leo Buscaglia*

## Book Report

Recently my Book Club read "To Dance With the White Dog" by Terry Kay. The reviewer (a good United Methodist lady), for the fun of it, had emailed the author and he sent back an email saying he would be interested in visiting with us on our meeting day.

Della called him and he talked with us for an hour, sharing why he wrote this book, about the characters, about his life, and answering our many questions. He lives in Georgia and that is the locale of this book. Although it is fiction, it is based on his mother and father.

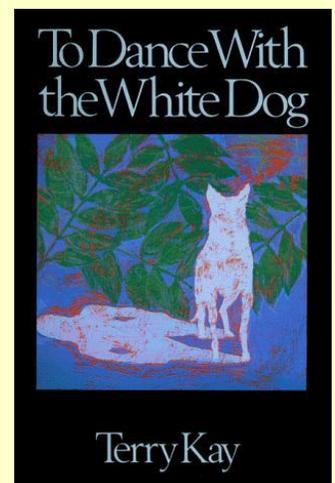
It is the story of an elderly man, Sam, whose wife dies suddenly. He relives memories of her and struggles to keep going independently, while his grown children watch him constantly. He tells them he has a white dog which no one but Sam can see. They are amazed when one day, after Sam has a slight mishap, they see the dog. He and White Dog will have adventures which scare and surprise his children. This book will reach out to people who have suffered loss, but it is also just a wonderful read of the love of two people and the love and kindness of their children.

There are two copies of this book in our DSUMC library in the Fellowship Hall. It is only 178 pages and is a heartwarming book to read. ~ *Marilyn McKee*

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"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." ~ *Albert Einstein*

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"I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High." **Psalms 7:17**

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"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared." ~ *Buddha*

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## Member (cont.)

I love being a UMW member and am happy to have made some remarkable friends in Christ. If you haven't attended a meeting, or if you haven't been in awhile, please take the time and effort to come to a meeting. You always learn a lot, there is great food, and it's fun to meet new friends or catch up with ones you may not have visited recently. ~ *Adele Edwards*

## Personal Reflection (cont.)

The sad answer is that I perceive that I don't have enough time. I am not good at saying "no", I am not good at delegating (a deadly combination), and to top it off, I am plagued by a decent sized dose of OCD which complicates my ability to set priorities.

I have just recently (like 2 days ago) set out on yet another quest to spend daily quiet time with God. I am glad He is a forgiving God – although I believe I am fast approaching the 70 times 7 threshold! I find that it is easier to put aside the things that "have to be done today" when I am being held accountable by others – in the form of a study group, a Sunday school class, or maybe just a reminder from a good friend. You may feel free to email me at any time, and ask if I've had my quiet time with God today! Or, better yet, write an article for The Joyful Noise sharing what you've found to be effective in helping you draw near to God.

(Continued on page 6)

## Recipe

Joan French's FRENCH TOAST BAKE

Joan brought this to a UMW brunch and it was so delicious I asked her for the recipe. ~ *Mary Broughton*

½ cup melted butter (one stick) 4 eggs  
 1 cup brown sugar (If you would like less sugar, ½ cup will work.)  
 1 loaf of thickly sliced bread ½ cup milk  
 1 teaspoon vanilla Powdered sugar for sprinkling  
 Cinnamon for sprinkling



French Toast Bake

1. Melt butter in microwave and add brown sugar. Stir till mixed.
2. Pour butter/sugar mixture into 9" x 13" pan and spread around.
3. Beat eggs, milk and vanilla.
4. Lay single slices of bread in pan.
5. Spoon ½ of egg mixture on bread layer.
6. Sprinkle some cinnamon over bread/eggs.
7. Add 2nd layer of sliced bread.
8. Spoon remaining egg mixture.
9. Cover and chill in fridge overnight.
10. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes (covered for the first 30 minutes).
11. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cinnamon.
12. Serve with warm maple syrup.

## Circles

Methodism founder John Wesley knew the key to social change is small-group gatherings. Circles are a basic unit of United Methodist Women all over the world. Desert Skies has two circles that meet monthly for fellowship, community support, and business. Circles are a great way to be more connected to the church, UMW members, and God. The support circle can be life-changing.

**Zippy 49'ers Circle** will meet as usual on the third Wednesday of the month, October 16, in Fellowship Hall. We will gather at 9:15, with breakfast at 9:30. We will continue with Chapter 2 of our book study, *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them*, by John Ortberg. Sister Jose Women's Shelter is our ministry focus. If you have items to donate, you can either bring them to the meeting, or arrange to give them to Glenda Burdick on Sunday morning. We are delighted when new people want to check us out, so feel free to come and see what we are all about, or you can call the church office. Our November meeting will be November 20, the same as above. We will be discussing Chapter 3 of the study book. ~ *Glenda Burdick*

**Mary Martha Circle** began our fourth year of tutoring elementary school students in early September. This year we have 19 students and three National Honor Society helpers (especially with Math!). Come join us Monday and/or Tuesday 3 pm to 4:15 in Fellowship Hall. ~ *Jeann Fishback*

## Personal Reflection (cont.)

Before I go, I'd like to share with you a few of the words of comfort that have come to me through my quiet times, and which I read and re-read as life demands. The first is from a book by Barbara Johnson, *Pain Is Inevitable but Misery Is Optional...So, Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy!* It is entitled Acceptance. *Acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing, or situation – some fact of my life – unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing, or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment. Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in God's world by mistake. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and in my attitudes.*

Yesterday, part of my reading was a quote from Martin Luther, "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." Today, the scripture from the Skyline was II Corinthians 4:16-18. "Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." What better guidance for someone who is "too busy." Take time from my frantic pace which only makes me waste away faster, and focus on inward renewal and seeking God's will for the use of the time He has given me. Amen! ~ *Sandee Landsburg*

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"If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody." ~ *Chinese Proverb*

"Our prime purpose in this life is to help others and if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them." ~ *Dalai Lama*

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." ~ *Aesop*

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If you have any questions about UMW, its meetings and activities, please contact one of the UMW Board Members:

**President:** Marilyn McKee

**Vice President:** Glenda Burdick

**Secretary:** Mary Broughton

**Treasurer:** Marilyn McKee

**Program Coordinator:** Diana Barber

**Membership:** Elsie Heinz

**Social Action:** Jeanne Myers

**Zippy 49ers Circle:** Glenda Burdick, Lorna Niven

**Mary Martha Circle:** Sandy Kleen, Jeann Fishback

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