



THE JOYFUL NOISE

UMW Newsletter

DESERT SKIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2018

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Pledge Service Reading



Enjoying delicious food with friends

Cookie Walk and Craft Sale

We want to thank all the Desert Skies United Methodist Church members and friends who donated cookies, fruit breads, candy, plus all the interesting craft items to our Cookie Walk and Craft Sale on December 10, 2017. And, of course, thanks to all who returned the next day and purchased baked goods and crafts. We are delighted to announce our earnings of \$925 has been sent to Sister Jose Women's Center.

In the past years we have seen a decline in our baked good donations - some contributors have moved away, some have passed away, and some have the aches and pains which make baking difficult. My right shoulder gets quite distraught when I use the electric mixer these days.

For many years a fantastic tasty buckeye - is it cookie or candy? - was a popular item. But our dear lady, who made them, Kate Bruner, is ill and unable to prepare them for us. BUT, a lady in our church heard about it and learned how to make buckeyes and brought them to our Sale. She made my day when she brought them in!

We are hoping that more of you ladies will share your special baking and decorating skills with us next year. We call it a Cookie Walk - but any of your baking specialties would be appreciated. Perhaps some of you could have a "bakeathon" for our Cookie Walk. For the Crafts, a hot summer day in cold air conditioning could be a good time to whip up some choice crafts for us, bearing in mind these items are often intended for Christmas purchases.

Our Cookie Walk and Craft Sale is planned for Sunday, December 9, 2018 so you only have about 11 months to come up with your fabulous ideas. ~ Marilyn McKee

UMW January General Meeting

Last Saturday, January 27th, at 9:15 a.m. the UMW met in the Fellowship Hall for the January General Meeting. We began with delicious brunch served by our M&M Circle, followed by a short business meeting, including the yearly pledge service. Jesus Aguilar from the administrative office of CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates discussed how to be a CASA and the amazing impact CASAs have on a child's life. CASAs are everyday folks who volunteer to provide for abused and neglected children in the foster care system. Foster children who have a CASA are twice as likely to find a safe permanent home and half as likely to reenter the foster care system. ~ Marilyn McGee

Meet a fellow UMW member

I, Shawne Sidles, was asked to write my story. At first I was honored to be asked, but this is turning out harder than I imagined. So I'm taking a deep breath and plunging forward.

I was born at Queen of Angels hospital in Los Angeles, California. I remember my first church was a Church of Christ my grandparents started in Dominguez, California. My family moved to Norwalk, California and I was baptized in a Lutheran Church (American Synod). We moved back to Dominguez (now part of Carson). I attended a private Lutheran School in Long Beach California. Unfortunately it was Missouri Synod which is extremely strict, I lasted two years and then was very happy to go to public school.

In the mid 70's we moved to Parker, Arizona. I am not clear as to why; my parents would tell you they wanted to take their children out of Carson. This was a huge change from the hustle and bustle of California to a very small Arizona town. Parker is one square mile surrounded by the Colorado River Indian Reservation. We lived in town for a few years and then moved onto the Reservation. Because it was cheap, we paid maybe \$150.00 a year for an acre of land. I attended Le Pera Elementary on the reservation - a converted Japanese Internment Camp. There were also a few such camps located nearby in Poston, Arizona. There is a cultural exchange between the Tribes and the Japanese that occur yearly. It is quite a sight to see. I attended Parker High School. My family did not attend church until it was time for confirmation.

There was a small Lutheran congregation that worshipped at the Masonic Lodge. The minister would come in from Blythe. Unfortunately for me, it was Missouri Synod. As you can imagine me at 14, it didn't go very well. Oh, I was confirmed, it was a two year course and I knew I only had to do one year because of my age. At this time in my life, most of my close friends were Latter Day Saints and I was attending their Thursday programming. I also belonged to the International Order of Rainbow for Girls (a Masonic order). This did not go well with the Lutheran minister who, being Missouri Synod, told my parents if we lived in a bigger town I would not be allowed to attend either activities. You can imagine how well that went over with me. My parents just shook their heads and said "okay". My parents went to church after my confirmation twice a year, well, really only once - Easter, because Christmas was not convenient.

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Shawne Sidles and family

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! You must be perfect—just as your Father in heaven is perfect. **Matthew 5:43-48**

UMW February General Meeting

"Impressions of the Philippines" is the title of the program for the next general meeting of the United Methodist Women on Saturday, February 24. Glenda Burdick will be talking about and showing pictures of her trip to the Philippines in December. Find out about this interesting country – a place of many contrasts – and a nation we know so little about. We will gather at 9:15 a.m., share a light brunch at 9:30, and journey together to the Philippines. This meeting is open to all the women of the church, so please mark your calendars. ~ *Glenda Burdick*

UMW Event Calendar – 2018

February

- 5 - UMW Board Meeting - 10:00 a.m. Room 2
- 11 - Western Sunday, all Church. 9:30 a.m.
- 13 - Helping Hands - 9:00 a.m. - Kitchen
- 14 - Ash Wednesday - Happy Valentine's Day
- 17 - Gaslight Theater
- 21 - Zippy 49er's Circle Meeting - 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- 24 - UMW General Meeting 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

March

- 13 - Helping Hands - 9:00 a.m. - Kitchen
- 21 - Zippy 49er's Circle Meeting - 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- 25 - Palm Sunday
- 30 - Good Friday

April

- 1 - Easter Sunday

Contact Jeann Fishback or Sandy Kleen for dates for M&M Circle Remember - M&M Tutoring is 3:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday each week that school is in session.

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." **Mark 12:29-31**

Special Mission Recognition

On Sunday, January 21, United Methodist Women presented two years of awards to four women of Desert Skies United Methodist Church in recognition of their service to the church. People receiving this award are kept secret until they are recognized and presented with the pin which symbolizes their special contributions toward the mission of the church and the mission of United Methodist Women. Sunday's awards were made to:

Debbie Poisel – coordinator of ushers at the early service, flea market accountant, tutoring program participant, member of the banner committee

Lorna Niven – long time Sunday School teacher, Circle co-chair, teacher of oil painting

Karen Anderson – co-chair of Congregational Care, chair of Meal Ministry, Road to Emmaus participant, Stephen Minister, youth worker

Ginger Crowder – coordinator of Primavera Lunches for our church, participant in the Back Pack project

The dotted lines indicate that these individuals were involved in additional ministries. Their service to mission extends beyond the local church by the financial gift made to the district in their honor that supports the ministries of United Methodist Women. Thank you Debbie, Lorna, Karen, and Ginger. The world - and our church! - is a better place because of you. ~ *Glenda Burdick*

Primavera Lunches

We had an article last month about Primavera lunches, but Chris Crowder, who was in charge, has become too ill to continue running the program, so Diana Barber has very graciously agreed to coordinate this vital support to the community. Diana wanted to make all aware of the need, especially in getting a new list of volunteers, so she has provided this article.

On the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m., ladies of the church pack lunches to support a program offered by Primavera. Primavera helps homeless men by not only giving them shelter, but also providing them with education and training that could lead to their finding and maintaining employment. Everyone is encouraged to help - just stop by and we will show you what to do.

Each month we ask for volunteers to purchase and donate requested food; each person only needs to purchase 1 set of items. The requested items are 30 slices of turkey luncheon meat, 30 slices of ham luncheon meat, 60 slices of cheese (individually wrapped), 6 loaves of bread (at least 22 slices per loaf), fruit (30 oranges or 30 bananas), 30 individual packages of chips, and 5 dozen cookies, which should be homemade. These items can be delivered to the kitchen on Sunday or Monday (and no later than 9:00 a.m. Tuesday morning) - well labeled, indicating they are for the Helping Hands - and placed in the refrigerator, or on the kitchen counter.

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Prayer

God, thank You for this day!

Thank You for the birds and the animals, the flowers and the trees, the lakes and the streams, and the sun that rises and sets over them each day.

Thank You for creating everything we see!

Thank You for the life we live, and for making each person unique.

Thank You for Jesus, who died for us so that we can go to heaven one day just for believing in Him.

What an amazing God You are!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/prayers/>

Book Report

Massacre at Sand Creek, How Methodists Were Involved in an American Tragedy by Gary L. Roberts

In 1972, a friend and I went to see a movie at a local theater in Peoria, Illinois. I knew nothing about the movie, other than it was a western and that was good enough for me. However, it turned out to be nothing like I expected.

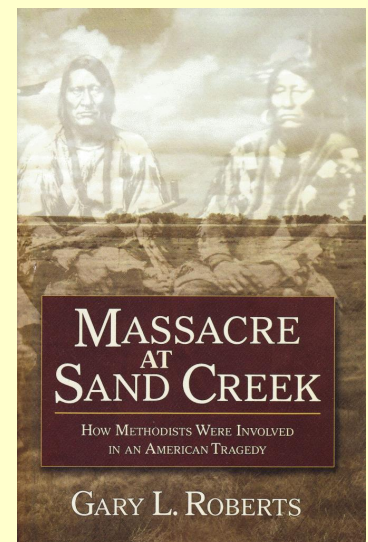
The movie was called "Soldier Blue" and was based on the true events of an incident known as the Sand Creek Massacre. Since that time, I have tried to learn more about the story. The movie, however, portrayed the events with amazing accuracy, including the murder, rape and mutilation of 230 Cheyenne and Arapaho, peaceful Native Americans, mostly women and children. The Indians had been encouraged to camp at Sand Creek by Colorado Governor John Evans, who also promised that as long as they remained friendly, he would provide them protection from their enemies. However, no one anticipated that Col. John Chivington would lead the Colorado volunteer militia to attack the sleeping camp just before dawn. I can see as clearly now as I did in that movie theater, the depiction of an elder known as Old Antelope walking towards the charging militia with his hands outstretched saying (in English) "stop, stop" while the bullets flew into his body, and the image of Chief Black Kettle standing in front of his tipi waving an American flag, as well as a white flag, while the battle waged around him.

In his book, Gary L. Roberts tells about the spread of Methodism through the eastern colonies, the mid-west, and into the Great Plains. He also tells the story of Chivington, who was a Methodist minister of significant standing, but thought that military glory would help his political career and his ambitions of going to Congress.

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"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." **Luke 6: 27-28**

"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." **Luke 6:35-36**



Book Report (cont.)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **John 13: 34-35**

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." **John 15:9-13**

This is my command: Love each other. **John 15: 17**

Governor Evans was also a Methodist, who really had little interest in the Native Americans; in fact, they were in the way of his plans to develop the Denver area and his dreams of building railroads and profiting his business investments. There were certainly Indian raids taking place on the Colorado Front Range, with settlers and miners being attacked by various tribes. However, the Sand Creek Indians had realized their best chance was to try to form an alliance with the Americans, desiring only peace. The Methodist church had no official stand on the issues of Native Americans, but they made no objection to the "exterminate or subjugate" policy of men like Evans and Chivington and many of the settlers. The book goes on to follow the lives of Evans and Chivington in the aftermath of the massacre, as well as the Methodist Church and its social policies.

Governor Evans had given Col. Chivington instructions to "teach those Indians a lesson" although he did not seem to be aware of Chivington's intended target. However, Chivington certainly did teach the Indians a lesson, that lesson being that the words of the whites could not be trusted. [Massacre at Sand Creek](#) is available from the UMW website. ~ *Diana Barber*

UMW Member (cont.)

I felt something missing in my life, so I drove myself to church. But I didn't like the strictness of the local Lutheran Church. Latter Day Saints wasn't for me either; I couldn't understand why women weren't allowed to hold the Priesthood. I went to the Baptist Church with a friend. But it was Southern Baptist, and when the preacher said to the women, "You are to meet you husband at the door, with his slippers in hand and ask him how his day was," well, that church wasn't for me, either. The Elders (Missionaries) of the Latter Day Saints kept trying to reel me in. There were testimonials I was asked to attend. And there was more... ~ *Shawne Sidles*

(Continued in our next newsletter)

Recipe

Prairie Fire Dip

- 2 cans Hormel Chili - w/o beans
- 2 pounds American Cheese, cut in chunks
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 4 chopped Jalapenos w/o seeds, may be canned or fresh

Mix well. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. Serve with Tortilla chips or bagels cut in chunks.

My family does not consider it a party unless we serve Prairie Fire. Kraft used to have American Cheese in a Blue Box. They don't produce that anymore so we use American Cheese from Costco. Do not use Velveeta. ~ *Sylvia Flagg*



Prairie Fire Dip

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 members continue to view the DVD series "That the World May Know" with Ray Vander Laan, which has biblical lessons while viewing archeological sites in the Holy Land. Jeanne Myers, Lorna Niven, and Sylvia Flagg shopped the after Christmas sales for clothing for Southern Arizona Child Advocacy Center with the \$350 left in our treasury from last year. Meanwhile, members are still encouraged to buy items to donate while they are out doing their own shopping. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 21 in Fellowship Hall. We gather at 9:15 a.m., with a light breakfast at 9:30. We welcome anyone who would like to attend. ~ *Glenda Burdick*

Mary Martha Circle enjoyed a combination Christmas Potluck luncheon and birthday celebration for the M&Mers, with birthdays from July through December! We had a wonderful time. We provided delicious foods for those who attended the January General Meeting. We continue to support the tutoring project and can always use more tutors. Tutoring takes place in Fellowship Hall on Monday and Tuesday afternoons just before 3:00. Please send old greeting and Christmas cards (both front and back) so they can be made into gift boxes for the Flea Market jewelry room. The cards are remade so that the inside notes can't be seen. ~ *Jean Fishback*



UMW members at Jan. meeting

Primavera (cont.)

Please contact Diana Barber if you are willing to help purchase or pack items (we don't want 90 bananas one month). We need to expand the list of volunteers who are willing to donate food and pack, as many hands make light work. We want to keep a record of your name, phone number, address, and any other information you want to provide us, such as how often you would like to be called to help and what months would be better for you to help (especially for our winter visitors). Furthermore, we would also like to have a list of who would be willing to deliver the lunches and also the hygiene kits that are delivered to various locations throughout the city. If you would like to drive, please give us your name and phone number.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon! ~ *Diana Barber*



Birthday Celebration with the M&Ms

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

