



UMW NEWS

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First United Methodist Church
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Extra! Extra! Bazaar to Reinvent Itself in 2017!

Board Decides it's Time for a Change

Over the past several years, the Bazaar in a Jar has been a highly successful vehicle for raising money to meet our annual district pledge for missions. It has been fun and it has been profitable. But, it has also been a lot of work and every year fewer of us are able to help out. We also learned that this year neither the Boy Scouts nor the FUMC youth are planning to serve a meal concurrent with our bazaar. So, with all of that in mind, the Executive Board made a commitment to look for alternative fundraising options in order to raise the \$5000 we need to meet our 2017 pledge.

Sandy Pinter, Sharon Johnson, Karen Wood, Sharon Goller, Barb Mitchell and Carol Bond met as a committee on March 30 to discuss how we might restructure our fundraising efforts. A number of ideas were considered and rejected—from selling nuts to putting on a fashion show! The following article is based on a brief report prepared by Sandy Pinter and presented to the Executive Board on April 5. The more complete minutes of the meeting are available from Secretary Sharon Johnson. After discussion, the plan was approved!

Bazaar to be a 3-Day Event! What?!

The results of surveys completed by UMW members revealed that the top four most highly valued aspects of the Bazaar were Baked Goods and Snack Items, Soup, Gift Baskets, and the Silent Auction. The committee considered ways to create a less labor-intensive event that might encompass these four aspects.

We came up with a concept for a new kind of “Bazaar”—to be held in Friendship Center on three successive Sunday mornings in the fall. Dates are set for October 1, 8, and 15, 2017. Here is the plan:

- ♥ A limited number of Gift Baskets will be displayed and sold on each of the three October Sundays
- ♥ The Silent Auction will begin on the first Sunday and continue for the next 2 Sundays.

- ♥ In addition, each Sunday will feature one of the following: Homemade Soups in Quart Jars, along with Quick Breads; Pies; and Specialty Cakes

Sandy Pinter has agreed to serve as Chair of the Planning Committee. (Thank you, Sandy!) The next meeting of the Committee will be held on April 26. More details about our fall fundraiser will be included in the May issue of the UMW News. For more information or to pass along your comments, please see anyone on the Planning Committee.

In Search of a New Name!

Bazaar in a Jar and Gift Baskets Too was great while it lasted, but we're in need of a different name now that our concept has evolved. Please send your suggestions to Carol Bond (cbond413@gmail.com) or Sandy Pinter (sandraspinter@gmail.com).

Salad & Dessert Luncheon June 7!

Put that date on your calendar **NOW!** Our annual Salad and Dessert Luncheon to celebrate missions will be held on Wednesday, June 7. Our featured speaker will be Carolyn Paullin, who serves as Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Iroquois River District UMW. Carolyn is a member of the Bellflower United Methodist Church and also serves as our Shepherdess for 2017.

Watch for more details in our May issue, but enter the date in or on your calendar now!

May 6 Breakfast at Mahomet UMC

We've been invited to join the women of Mahomet UMC as their guests at their annual May Breakfast, which will feature egg casseroles, fruit, coffeecakes and beverages. Breakfast begins promptly at 9 a.m.

Speaker will be The Honorable Judge Joseph Cunningham, portrayed by retired United Methodist pastor Richard McGuire. Many of us have witnessed Rev. McGuire's enjoyable and informative performance as he gave an historical and personal

account of “Judge Joe’s” life at one of our 2016 meetings. If you missed out, the May Breakfast is a great opportunity for you. Please contact Anne McKenney (arockymac@aol.com; 356-4728) by May 1 and she will reserve a space for you.

Ashley Maryan to be Honored in May!

Ashley Maryan was nominated by our UMW Executive Board as Outstanding Young Church Woman at FUMC in recognition of her involvement and service in the life of the church. She will be honored by Church Women United at its annual celebration of May Friendship Day, to be held at First Presbyterian Church Champaign on May 5. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend and to show your support for Ashley.



Ashley’s greatest involvement in service to our church has been in working with children. As a young teen, she began helping out with our church’s Sunday morning child care program (ARK) and continued performing that valuable service for 13 years.

Ashley earned a degree in Early Childhood Education from Parkland College and has been a Lead Day Care teacher at our church’s weekday Child Care Center for 3 years—for a total of 8 years educating and caring for children in our community. In addition to her work with young children, Ashley has assisted with youth activities and has participated in service projects with the youth at empty tomb.

Ashley joined our church’s Local Outreach Ministry Team in January and has already contributed significantly. As an example, she was instrumental in making our church’s contribution to the empty tomb Mega-Workathon very successful.

We are blessed to have Ashley Maryan as a member of our church and we are confident that this vibrant and dedicated young woman will continue to serve children and youth wherever life takes her. She is truly an Outstanding Young Church Woman.

What is Church Women United?

Church Women United (CWU) is a Christian ecumenical movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. Founded in 1941, its purpose is to bring together

women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. CWU engages millions of women representing twenty-six denominations. To learn more about this dynamic movement, check the CWU website www.churchwomen.org.

empty tomb: the tale of a love gift

For several years, we have been so fortunate—and blessed—by the financial success of our Bazaar that the UMW Exec Board—on behalf of all FUMC United Methodist Women—has awarded  monetary love gifts to several local agencies that serve the needs of women, children, and youth. We often receive thank you notes, but it is seldom that we hear such a personal testimony from one of our recipients, as the letter we received from Shannon Cook, Coordinator of empty tomb. The following excerpts from Shannon’s letter tell the tale....

 “We received your United Methodist Women compassionate gift of \$100 designated to empty tomb’s Christian Health Services Layettes, and \$400 designated to the Medical Fund....Because of your generosity you helped us help a woman ...to  pay off her whole bill for her hearing aid.”

A mistake on the woman’s monthly SSI payment had left her without enough money to pay her bill. With our help, empty tomb paid the remaining balance due, “so she could both hear and not worry about the bill.” The woman phoned Shannon later after she had learned the news. “She was extremely grateful and told us she had needed winter boots...and now could buy them. She sounded tearful over the phone when told this was given to her free in the name of Jesus. Then she replied, ‘Praise Jesus!’ That sounds good, doesn’t it!?”

And United Methodist Women said....Amen!

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.”

John Wesley

Help Wanted: Secretary for UMW



The Nominations Committee is seeking a volunteer to serve as UMW Secretary for our unit. The primary responsibility is to attend Executive Board meetings, take notes, and prepare the notes for distribution at the next meeting of the Board. The Board meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month and does not meet in July and August. If you believe that this is a way to use your spiritual gifts in service to United Methodist Women as we fulfill our purpose, please contact Nominations Chair Barb Mitchell (barbmitchell510@aol.com; 356-8896) Members of the UMW Board will thank you.

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.

Contributors to this Issue

*Carol Bond, Editor
Terry Benson, Assistant Editor
Sharon Johnson,
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Sandy Pinter, Sharon Johnson, Karen Wood, Sharon Goller, Barb Mitchell and Carol Bond



The Source for all Things UMW

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>