



Let's Get Together

Let's Get Together

United Methodist Women Newsletter

February 2012

Message from Beth Smith

Dulin United Methodist Women would like to do another Tea Party fundraiser this March or April. We need a person or persons to step forward and agree to organize this event. All members would rally to make the event another delightful afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Please contact me by e-mail, lizzyhsmith@yahoo.com or phone, 703 356-3392 to volunteer.

In this issue:

A Message from Beth Smith

Glowing Service

Joshua's Way

District News

February is a good month to read! Most of us want to stay indoors and curl up in a cozy corner with a book. Why not choose a life-changing book from the UMW Reading program. Stop by the Church Library or if you need assistance, Mary Rank, UMW Reading Program Coordinator, can be reached at 703 208-1822 or by e-mail at rankmarydavid@hotmail.com

I recently read *Ostriches, Dung Beetles and Other Spiritual Masters – The book of Wisdom from the Wild*. The book was written by Sister Janice McLaughlin who has lived a full and fascinating life. As a Maryknoll Sister she has had the opportunity to enter deeply, in a totally non-judgemental way, into the experience and culture of a wide range of people in the African continent. Observing all with humorous eyes of faith and generous compassion, she has established warm friendships with an extraordinary range of people of different tribes and generations, from cabinet ministers to township children, freedom fighters to grandmothers who have never left their home villages. Each chapter of this book starts with a description of an animal, a bird, or a plant – but not the ones one might expect. Each short chapter ends with two scripture readings, three questions to reflect on and three actions you might take in response to that chapter.

Here's the beginning of the chapter on the Warthog, master of Resourcefulness:

A Kenyan folktale recounts that the warthog was created with long ivory tusks and the elephant was given very small curved ones. The elephant envied the warthog and tricked him into

exchanging tusks. After they had traded, the warthog laughed and said that the elephant would always live in fear and danger, as it would be hunted for its beautiful tusks while the ugly warthog could live in peace.

This story reminds the listeners to be content with what we have received from God. It is a lesson against envy and jealousy. Certainly the warthog, a pig with tusks, is not very attractive or eye-catching, but it is a survivor. Warthogs are found throughout the African savanna and are able to survive by eating grass as well as roots and tubers. Its snout is like a shovel that can dig into the earth to find tasty bulbs and nutritious rhizomes. Its jaw is hinged, enabling the warthog to grind grass and fruits.

The female warthog becomes fertile at eighteen to nineteen months and gives birth to two to five offspring at a time after a gestation period of about five and a half months. The young remain in the burrow for the first six weeks, after which they accompany their mother everywhere, filing behind her in a fixed order. A parade of warthogs, walking single file, is a common and humorous sight throughout the continent.

Warthogs have learned how to survive even though they have some predators, including human beings, who find their meat very delicious. The warthog lives in burrows where it is safe from predators and also from the hot sun. The male uses its small tusks to protect its young and also to compete with other males for a mate. They do not impress by their looks or by their deeds, but they have learned to use the scarce resources around them to live. They do not even dig their own burrows, but use holes that have been excavated and abandoned by aardvarks.

I experienced such resourcefulness in camps of Zimbabwean refugees, hidden deep in the forests of neighboring Mozambique. Such camps housed thousands of men, women, and children who had fled the violence at home, bringing with them only the possessions they could carry on their heads – a few clothes, a blanket, a pot and enough food for the journey.

For the “rest of the story” check this book out of the Church Library.

Glowing Service Fellowship

Joshua's Way Fellowship

Glowing Service Fellowship by Ruth Mulkey

Glowing Service Fellowship met in the MP Room on January 9 with eight members and one guest present. Officers for the Fellowship for the New Year will continue to be: President, Audrey Lemon, Secretary, Ruth Mulkey, Treasurer, Linda Strother, and Sunshine Chairperson, Grace Taylor. It was voted to meet in the church library from now on. Audry Fawcett presented a program from the Response Magazine concerning our service through giving. Pledge cards were then filled out. It was decided that the fellowship will continue to support Bethany House through their monthly donations. Marguerite Clossman shared Christmas greetings that she had received from former members Beverly Creigh, Carol Hixon, and Mary Ann Craig.

News has been received since the meeting of the death of Roberta Webb who was a member of our Fellowship. Our sympathies are extended to Roberta's family.

Joshua's Way Fellowship by Mary Rank

The first Joshua's Way meeting of 2012 was held on January 9. The meeting was essentially a time to look at the year ahead. Of top priority is the planning of our 2nd annual **UMW Tea Party**. We need a few people to help organize this event which could take place in late March. Please let me know if you are willing to help make this lovely event happen again this year.

Please remember that it is that time of year to Pledge (no, I don't mean dust). **UMW Pledge** cards will be available at the next meeting. Don't forget your checkbooks. And speaking of pledging.... Make a pledge to yourself that you will widen your horizons and increase your world and social awareness by participating in the **UMW Reading Program**. It's free, it's easy and it's rewarding. Check out some of the titles we have in the church library: *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall & Denver Moore, *We wait You* by Taryn Hutchison, *Thunder over Kandahar* by Sharon McKay, *The Bite of the Mango* by Mariatu Kamara, *More Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara Essex...just to name a few.

Here is something to think about in the year ahead:

You won't be alone. Someone who loves you unconditionally is at the helm. Divine Love sustains you, surrounds you, enfolds you, protects you. Go in peace. You're as ready as you ever will be; well equipped for the adventures awaiting. Divine Substance - which is your only Reality- provides abundantly. But you must ask. Ask for help, supply, guidance, grace. Ask for the Power to be switched on Ask to catch the Flow. Ask to soar. Ask. Ask.

Ask. *Sarah Ban Breathnach*

District News

District News - Save the Dates!

Spiritual Growth Lenten Retreat Saturday, March 17, 9 AM-1PM

- ♦ **The leader for the retreat will be Rev. Kimberly Barker-Brugman**, who is currently serving Silverbrook UMC in Lorton, VA. Kimberly is a certified spiritual director, and frequently leads retreats, workshops on spirituality, prayer, and Christian clowning. The retreat will close with a communion agape love feast.
- ♦ **Place:** Oakton United Methodist Church, 2851 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton, VA.
- ♦ **Registration:** \$10.00 to be sent to Mary Williams, 407 Adahi Road, Vienna, VA 22180

Spring Prayer Breakfast Saturday, April 14, 9 AM-Noon

- ♦ **Bringing the message for the Prayer Breakfast will be Betsey G. Caudill**, Program Coordinator for the Arlington District UMC.
- ♦ **Place:** Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls