Mid-State District United Methodist Women of the Missouri Conference establish a Reading Program library so members can easily access books.

by Stephanie Greiner

The Reading Program is an integral part of United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Women of the Mid-State District of the Missouri Conference wanted to make sure that all of its members had access to books on the list. The district encourages women to get involved with the Reading Program, but many units within the Mid-State District do not always have access to the books in their local libraries or the ability to purchase them. So the Mid-State District mission team developed a district Reading Program library.

Janet Hofstetter was the first librarian of the Mid-State District Library. The library is currently headed by Teresa Adams. Each year the district mission team determines a budget and the librarian and program resource coordinator meet to select books for the new year’s Reading Program list. The books then travel to district meetings and women check in and check out books based on what is available. The library has been doing so well and has had such an amazing response that multiple copies of some of the books have been purchased.

In addition to helping launch the library, Ms. Hofstetter has begun offering Traveling Book Reviews. Units are informed of what books have been reviewed, and each spring Ms. Hofstetter travels to units throughout the district to present the reviews. There has been such a positive response that Ms. Hofstetter worked with the District webmaster to make her book reviews available online. She has even created outlines and PowerPoints so that other women can present the reviews. Her reviews encourage members to read, learn and share more with one another. It has brought a spark to the Reading Program within our district! For the 2014 Reading Program Ms. Hofstetter reviewed 100 Simple Things You Can Do to Prevent Alzheimer’s by Jean Carper.

When library books “retire” from the Reading Program, we keep books that groups ask us to keep, but most of the books are donated to a women’s correctional facility. The libraries within the Missouri Department of Corrections are able to accept these donations and put them into circulation within the prison population. This means the messages of faith, hope and love in action are spread to a population that might not have much faith, be really low on hope and needs some love in action!

Through the Mid-State District, women are able to actively participate in the Reading Program throughout the year. Participation in the Reading Program not only educates women on critical topics but helps us grow spiritually. We are excited to continue to grow our library and reach out to those who may be interested in developing their own Reading Program Library!

Stephanie Greiner is president of United Methodist Women at Wesley United Methodist Church in Jefferson, Mo., and coordinator for social action for the Mid-State District of the Missouri Conference United Methodist Women.

From the General Secretary

Storytelling with purpose

by Harriett Jane Olson

Storytelling and remembering the stories of people who have contributed to our organization and our nation is important. It reminds us of who we are and evokes both gratitude for what was achieved and motivation to live up to our forebears’ ideals. I’ve been noticing that the stories we tell in our national holidays and in United Methodist Women are not about people who invested themselves in going backward. These stories are about people, groups and organizations who were building a better world, making it possible for us to reach higher, be stronger and achieve more, making a way for marginalized people to develop, flourish and contribute to the church, the community and the world. These stories sometimes seem optimistic in a way that may not resonate with us today. These people thought and acted out of a sense that change was both necessary and possible. Their willingness to admit and deal with the way our organization and the world needed to be remade, women who acted as if change was possible. In addition to the conviction that God is with us and has called us to this work, their optimism and ours comes from being part of a sisterhood that is so committed to growing in faith and action and to making a difference for women, children and youth that we will do what it takes to build new ways of being together. That’s a great basis for optimism!

Harriett Jane Olson is General Secretary and CEO of United Methodist Women.
Making every woman count in East Africa

Regional Missionary trainings in Uganda and South Sudan aim to empower women and support communities.

by Rose Martha Musooko

Trainings led by Regional Missionary Elmira Sellu in the East Africa Annual Conference aim to make every woman count. These trainings help teach women to use their voices, and they are held through events such as Mission u, workshops, seminars, income-generating activities and Ubuntu Journeys.

During these events, held in Uganda and South Sudan, we have covered social issues such as environmental degradation, HIV and AIDS, infant and maternal reproductive health, poverty, and healing and reconciliation in relationships, to name a few. Leadership trainings on building self-esteem and assertiveness have also been offered.

Our aim is for each woman to teach one or more women. This has had a multiplying effect as women are encouraged to go back home and train others. These trainings have enabled women to understand their roles and responsibilities in fulfilling the mission work of our church: making disciples for the transformation of the world. They are also able to live out our United Methodist Women PURPOSE of experiencing freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.

The main focus of these trainings is to empower women to contribute positively to their communities by implementing best practices learned. Women leaders from South Sudan and Uganda have benefitted much from these trainings. Before one such training in Uganda, a number of women were involved in the selling of charcoal for fuel as a source of income. However, after they learned of the negative environmental and health impacts of charcoal, many women began using energy-saving stoves and making alternative charcoal from banana peelings and garbage. This has contributed to their livelihood improvement and environment protection programs within their communities. It has been observed that women’s participation in small-scale businesses and savings programs has improved after attending Mission u trainings. Microfinance programs have been established at the church level and have enabled women to sustain their families, especially keeping the girl-child in school, which has contributed to a reduction in child marriages. This has created some changes in gender roles and responsibilities—in addition to their traditional gender roles, some women are also now the breadwinners!

Training participants are made aware of their rights and obligations, which has enabled them to discover their abilities and potential. A number of women’s groups are now self-driven and have motivated others to stand up for what they believe. Establishment of two women’s training centers in the Jinja District in Uganda is a result of these trainings. These centers are equipping women with livelihood skills.

“I have been without a job for some time now, but thanks to the Wanyange Centre I am enabled to make a living by making handicrafts,” remarked one Ugandan woman.

Although considerable changes have been noted in women’s empowerment, there are still some challenges faced. These include limited capital to implement what they have learned in their communities and the refusal of some husbands to allow their wives to take empowerment courses. If these challenges are addressed, more women could be reached.

The programs and workshops have been relevant and beneficial to women and their communities. They have enabled women from various groups to keep in touch with one another and follow up on the lessons learned. The implementations of best practices are shared in their groups, and these have gone a long way in transforming the church. Every woman in the world counts!

United Methodist Women’s Mission Giving helps support United Methodist Women Regional Missionaries and programs. To learn more and contribute, visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/missionaries.

Rose Martha Musooko is president of United Methodist Women, Uganda.
M y quest for questioning injustices began during my school days in Rawalpindi when I and my dark-skinned classmates were discriminated against on the basis of our complexion and were not encouraged to take part in Christmas tableau. A few teachers preferred girls of fair complexion, and I was given subsidiary roles that did not demand a prominent visible appearance on the stage. I had to fight for even small roles.

After completing my studies I went to Kinnaird College for Women in Lahore, Pakistan. I was exposed to a broad canvas of possibilities to use my talents and skills. I also faced discrimination there.

Upon completion of my master’s degree I realized that only financial independence could allow me to live my life according to my own choices and wishes. Finding a job for economic sustenance and independence was always a question of great significance for me. I used to worry that my parents would set up an arranged marriage for me. It is customary and a culturally sanctioned belief that girls are meant to pursue certain stereotyped roles, like teaching, nursing and secretarial professions. Other professions are deemed not appropriate for women. Marriage before the age of 22 years was considered a right and respectful path for girls, and those who choose a professional career rather than early marriage are considered rebellious.

In 2005 I joined the Catholic Organization for Justice and Peace. As time passed, I started realizing that working for a cause and getting engaged in a political discourse gives me an inner satisfaction and bliss that I can’t get from other sources. I nurtured my intellectual capacities with the conviction of standing against injustices, questioning patriarchal structures and making a space for hearing the voices of the downtrodden and the marginalized. In 2007 I joined the Women’s Desk, Church of Pakistan, Lahore Diocese. Although the churches are hierarchical and patriarchal, I was fortunate to work under Bishop Alexander John Malik, who has been a strong advocate for women’s rights. I felt that more could be done with women’s fellowship groups at the church platform.

Through my work I found funding through the Bamahas Fund and through United Methodist Women. Since then, I have been involved in developing community-based projects for women and girls living at the fringes of society. In 2010, United Methodist Women provided funds for the long-term recovery after the widespread flooding in Pakistan.

In order to quench the thirst of political activism for women’s emancipation, I joined Women’s Movement in Pakistan. Women’s Movement protests discriminatory laws and policies against women and religious minorities and promotes women’s causes and concerns at the national level. Coupled with my grass-roots experiences of working with women and Christian communities, this forum helped in shaping my perspectives.

The majority of Christians in Pakistan belong to the lower economic strata of society. With the rising tide of religious intolerance and bigotry, several incidents of mob violence against poor Christian settlements and church-run institutions have raised many questions about my Christian identity. Does Pakistan really respect the rights of religious minorities? My national identity as a Pakistani and my Christian identity always stand in contrast to each other. During my master’s studies it dawned on me that most textbook content overtly emphasizes the supremacy of the majority religion, Islam, over others. Knowing and witnessing that blasphemy laws have been used to settle personal scores against weaker sections of society, I fear pursuing intellectual inquiry on issues relating to religious freedom in Pakistan.

In 2009 I was involved in a high-profile case of a Christian woman, Aasia Bibi, a poor villager, who was charged with blasphemy. I along with the Governor of Punjab, Salman Taseer, and his family visited Ms. Bibi to get her called traitor, among other things. This case was covered by national and international media.

On Jan. 4, 2010, Governor Taseer was assassinated by his own guard, who admitted that he shot the governor on account of his opposition to blasphemy laws. Two months later the federal minister for minority affairs, Shahbaz Bhatti, was also assassinated, and at his death scene a few letters were found stating that no one could speak against blasphemy laws. I was filled with pain and agony and could not sleep for four consecutive days. I was completely astounded by the series of events.

Working amid a patriarchal mindset in which tradition and culture are used as excuses for oppression and literalistic interpretation of religious text places women in a subservient position, there have been instances when I have felt like giving up the fight. Yet I see the positive changes that are being made and I am positive and motivated to continue my work. The zeal of women trained in stitching, sewing and adult literacy is the real driver of my work.

Being a part of international advocacy gives me solace and space for intellectual activism. This year United Methodist Women gave me the opportunity to participate in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. With their financial support I was able to travel to New York City to join international discourse on concerns and causes pertaining to women living in challenging situations. I learned about a wide range of challenges concerning women, such as poverty, environment, sexual violence and reproductive health, economy, resource allocation, access to justice, leadership, human rights and sustainable development. My time in New York energized me to continue my work toward the emancipation of women and marginalized communities, and it gave me an impetus to invite both men and women to be part of the solution.

United Methodist Women Mission Giving provides support to the Women’s Desk in the Church of Pakistan, Lahore Diocese.
Walk honoring foster and adoptive families draws local “Superheroes”

United Methodist Women National Mission Institution David & Margaret Youth and Family Services hosts walk to celebrate foster and adoptive parents and children.

by Julie Griffith

Supporters of David & Margaret Youth and Family Services garbed in superhero-themed outfits (as well as mild-mannered street wear) turned out on May 17 for the agency’s first annual Superheroes Walk honoring the agency’s foster parents and children. David & Margaret is located in La Verne, California, and is a United Methodist Women-supported National Mission Institution. The event was part of the agency’s annual respite day, when staff give foster parents a day off for some well-earned “me time” by caring for their young charges.

The Wonder Woman and Superman theme songs and other inspirational tunes helped boost participants’ energy during the hourlong event as they did laps on David & Margaret’s quarter-mile drive-way. Supporters included philanthropic organizations such as Big Sunday (that sponsored the souvenir T-shirts, breakfast bars and water), college students, David & Margaret volunteers and community members. Awards for the best costumes, exhibits by local vendors and a raffle drawing rounded out the event. Funds raised will benefit recreational activities for the foster family agency’s clients.

David & Margaret Youth and Family Services serves more than 1,000 clients annually through a comprehensive range of services, including a residentially based program for adolescent girls, shelter care for adolescent girls and boys, a foster family agency, adoption assistance, mental health services, treatment for learning disabilities, a transitional living program and school- and community-based education and mentoring programs. In addition, it has a chemical dependency program that is certified by the State of California for residents who are recovering from substance abuse. The Joan Macy School, a specialized non-public on-grounds school, opened in 1989 and serves agency residents as well as students referred from surrounding school districts.

Your Mission Giving helps support National Mission Institutions like David & Margaret Youth and Family Services. To learn more about National Mission Institutions and to donate, visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/nmi.

Julie Griffith is publicity coordinator for David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne, Calif.

Alabama women host anti-trafficking seminar

Northeast District United Methodist Women in Alabama sponsors forum on human trafficking and work to end it.

by Kay West

The Northeast District of the North Alabama Conference United Methodist Women organized a seminar this year to raise awareness of human trafficking. Held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville, Alabama, the event was cosponsored by the church and the District Superintendent of Northeast District the Rev. Dale Cohen. The event focused on the severity of human trafficking around the world, in the state of Alabama, and in Huntsville itself.

Pat McCay, chair of the Huntsville-Madison County Human Trafficking Task Force, spoke to attendees. She is a member of the Madison County Coordinated Community Response Task Force Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and of the Interfaith Mission Service’s Social Justice Committee. Lacy Henson Tolar, cofounder of Rescue Global, and Tajuan McCarty, founder and director of The WellHouse, were also speakers.

A former missionary in Asia, Ms. Tolar shared her firsthand experience of the conditions that cause and perpetuate child trafficking and how her organization is working to end such trafficking and help those who have been trafficked, including establishing a safe house in Tennessee. Ms. McCarty shared her personal story of surviving sexual exploitation and how The WellHouse is working to help women escape similar situations.

About 350 people attended the seminar, including nurses, counselors, teachers, law enforcement and ministers from Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi in addition to Alabama. Many professionals were able to receive continuing education credits. Free literature on human trafficking was offered, and books on the subject were available for sale. A DVD of the seminar was also available for purchase. Attendees participated in a question and answer period with all three speakers.

United Methodist Women members can help educate their churches and their communities on the issue of human trafficking, and we can all work together to end it. To learn more about United Methodist Women efforts to end trafficking, visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/human-trafficking.

Kay West is president of the Northeast District of the Alabama Conference United Methodist Women.
Scarritt-Bennett hosts civil rights activist

Civil rights activist Minnijean Brown Trickey shares her story and her work at Scarritt-Bennett event.

by Cayce LeGaspi

Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, Tennessee, a conference and retreat center supported by United Methodist Women, hosted an evening with civil rights activist Minnijean Brown Trickey of the Little Rock Nine in March 2014. Ms. Brown Trickey is one of the nine African American students who in 1957 resisted opposition to integration by attending an all-white high school.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its historic Brown v. Board of Education decision declaring segregated schools unconstitutional, thereby calling for the desegregation of all schools throughout the nation. In the fall of 1957, nine African American teenagers, including Ms. Brown Trickey, enrolled in the all-white Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. On the first day of school, a mob of segregationist protesters and the Alabama National Guard prevented the students from entering the school. The nine teenagers remained at home for the next two weeks. On September 25 President Dwight Eisenhower intervened, and the students were eventually escorted into the school with protection from federal troops.

Each of the Little Rock Nine students endured discrimination. One day as Ms. Brown Trickey walked through the cafeteria several chairs were pushed in her way, causing her to drop her tray and splash chili on two white students. Ms. Brown Trickey was then expelled for exchanging harsh words with the girls who harassed her and spit on her.

Ms. Brown Trickey spoke about her experience as well as her lifelong work for social justice after Little Rock Central High. She has pursued a career committed to peacemaking, diversity education, developing youth leadership, cross-cultural communication and gender and social justice advocacy. Ms. Brown Trickey served in the Bill Clinton Administration as deputy assistant secretary for workforce diversity at the Department of the Interior. She is the subject of the documentary Journey to Little Rock: The Untold Story of Minnijean Brown Trickey and has received numerous awards for her community work for social justice, including Lifetime Achievement Tribute by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the International Wolf Award for contributions to racial harmony. With the Little Rock Nine, she received the NAACP Spingarn Medal and the Congressional Gold Medal. She is a member of the Little Rock Nine Foundation that awards nine scholarships biannually.

For the past 10 years Ms. Brown Trickey has been a nonviolence and antiracism facilitator for Sojourn to the Past, a 10-day interactive history experience for high school students. She continues her social justice work as a teacher, motivational speaker and writer.

About Scarritt-Bennett Center

Originally Scarritt College for Christian Workers, United Methodist Women purchased the buildings and the grounds in 1988 when the college closed. It then became the Scarritt-Bennett Center and operates under a board of directors, which includes current and former United Methodist Women members, directors and staff.

Scarritt-Bennett is a non-profit retreat, education and conference center that provides space where individuals and groups engage one another to achieve a more just world. United Methodist Women Mission Giving helps support Scarritt-Bennett and its educational programs that focus on the center’s mission and core values, including the empowerment of women, eradication of racism and spiritual enrichment. Learn more at www.scarrittbennett.org.

Minnijean Brown Trickey, civil rights activist and one of the Little Rock Nine, spoke at an event sponsored by the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, Tenn., in March 2014.

United Methodist Women History Animated Shorts

United Methodist Women animated shorts are a fun way to learn online about United Methodist Women mission legacy and the women who made it happen. Learn about Alma Mathews, the first female missionaries to India and Pauli Murray’s work with United Methodist Women foremothers and its influence on Brown v. Board of Education.

Go to youtube.com/umwomen for the videos!
Changing lives one STEP at a time

The New Jersey Scholarship for Transformative Education in Prison program helps the incarcerated receive a true second chance.

by June Tamburro

September in the Northeast brings cool days, colorful leaves and the start of a new school year. Denise* has decided to pursue her associate’s degree in liberal arts, so on this crisp autumn morning she hurries to finish breakfast, gathers her books and leaves for class. Her schedule this semester includes English composition, algebra and introduction to psychology—a challenging load considering it has been more than 10 years since she finished high school or sat in an academic classroom.

Denise does not have far to travel to reach her first class. She and her fellow students gather for “count” in her housing unit and then walk together to the education building just across the compound. Denise is an incarcerated woman at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in New Jersey and is part of a program called NJ-STEP (Scholarship for Transformative Education in Prison), which offers college courses toward liberal arts degrees to more than 700 students statewide.

NJ-STEP is the brainchild of Director Margaret Quern Atkins. A longtime prisoners’ rights advocate, Ms. Atkins designed the program along with faculty members from supporting colleges, the New Jersey Department of Corrections and State Parole Board and incarcerated students. Prior to NJ-STEP, college courses were offered by various schools but were not necessarily advancing students toward degrees and were only available during their time of incarceration.

NJ-STEP has organized the seven participating colleges into a consortium housed at Rutgers-Newark. The consortium now offers degree programs at five of New Jersey’s state prisons and plans to eventually be present at all of the state facilities. Courses are offered based on students’ needs, and the students are always an integral part of the planning and evaluation process.

The NJ-STEP team works with supporting colleges to plan course offerings, ensure faculty coverage and manage student records and daily logistics. The team helps with school admissions and assists students who wish to continue their education once they are released from prison. NJ-STEP academic counselors work one on one with students for course selection and academic advising. Team members meet monthly to ensure program quality, plan for future course needs and share success stories of the students.

“We are all about the students, and their voices must be brought to the table,” Ms. Atkins said.

While team members bring a variety of professional experiences to their work, they all share a passion for social justice and a firm belief in the transformative power of education.

According to the Pew Center on the States, 43.3 percent of those released from prison in 2004 were reincarcerated within three years. The U.S. Department of Justice reports that in 2005 an estimated 68 percent of 405,000 prisoners released in 30 states were arrested for a new crime within three years of release from prison, and 77 percent were arrested within five years. The United States boasts the highest per capita incarceration rate in the world.

NJ-STEP is being evaluated as a model for prison education by the RAND Corporation, through the Vera Institute of Justice’s Pathways From Prison to Postsecondary Education Project, which seeks to demonstrate that postsecondary education greatly reduces recidivism, increases employability and earnings, and improves the quality of life in communities that are disproportionately impacted by high rates of incarceration.

NJ-STEP is unique in that it follows students upon release from prison, helps them with the college admissions process and offers educational re-entry support until students complete their degrees.

“The NJ-STEP team, left to right: Jerri Flippin, El-Shabazz Abdullah, Margaret Quern Atkins, June Tamburro, Chris Agans, Haja Kamara, Adrian Backus, Jeffrey Mielillo and Thomas Holmes.

“NJ-STEP is part of a program called NJ-STEP (Scholarship for Transformative Education in Prison), which offers college courses toward liberal arts degrees to more than 700 students statewide.”

The NJ-STEP team is one way we can live out our call to love and enable one another to live fully in the grace of God’s goodness. Become aware of laws in your state that affect formerly incarcerated citizens and urge your representatives to support restorative programs such as NJ-STEP. Remember, as we do to one of the least of these who are members of God’s family, so we do unto Jesus. With God’s help, we can change lives one STEP at a time.

*Names have been changed to protect identity.

June Tamburro is a candidate for ordination as a deacon in the United Methodist Church and works as an academic counselor with NJ-STEP.
Building a home and friendships in Cuba

United Methodist Women members from Flagler Beach, Fla., visit sister church Iglesia Metodista de Buena Vista in Las Tunas, Cuba.

by Carol W. Elliott

United Methodist Women members from Flagler Beach United Methodist Church in Flagler Beach, Florida, and friends journeyed to Cuba to visit Flagler Beach’s sister church, Iglesia Metodista de Buena Vista in Las Tunas, Cuba, in February 2014.

The women spent four days in Las Tunas and three days in Havana. In Cuba, obtaining permission to construct new religious buildings is difficult, so worshipers meet in “house churches.” Flagler Beach United Methodist Church has partnered with the Las Tunas church to help church members build a home for the Rev. Reinaldo Cordovez and his family. When it is time for church services, the living room furniture is moved and pews are set up. Often 60-70 people crowd inside, and others listen outside.

“I found women to be the backbone of our sister church,” said Sarah Kerr, coordinator of the trip. “They constitute a large majority of the congregation... The women of the Methodist congregations in Cuba are the glue that holds the churches together. I am blessed to call them sisters.”

The next construction phase for the house church is a garage, which once built can be used for worship services rather than the living room. Flagler Beach United Methodist will continue supporting these whole-hearted Christians as they endeavor to reach out to others through mission.

“Even with our differences, we share a commonality as human beings and as children of God,” the Rev. Jeanine Clontz told the Flagler Beach congregation when we returned.

Paula Engle was struck by Cuba’s contrasts. “After visiting Havana, we found the saying “There’s Havana, and then there is Cuba,” to be so true,” she said. “A bath-sized bar of soap in Cuba costs $5, when the wage is $15 a month.”

Las Tunas, which has a population of just over 150,000, is the capital of Las Tunas Province on the east side of the island of Cuba. Las Tunas is not a tourist destination as Havana is. Ms. Kerr said staying in Las Tunas was like stepping back in time, especially with the older model cars, due to Cuba’s restriction on car imports.

We stayed in a hotel in Las Tunas and at the United Methodist Center in Havana. The bus trip from Las Tunas to Havana took 11 hours, over bumpy roads, with many stops along the way. To visit Cuba we traveled on religious visas, acquired through the church. Religious visas allowed for a little more flexibility than tourist visas regarding where we could stay and how we could travel.

“The people were wonderful!” said Ruth Young, Flagler Beach United Methodist Church’s library director. “All the women commented on the friendliness and generosity of the parishioners at Iglesia Metodista de Buena Vista. We came home with various gifts made by church members.”

Dear United Methodist Women

To all of you wonderful United Methodist Women,

I am 80 years old and been diagnosed with lung cancer and don’t know how many years I have left. I want to let you know that United Methodist Women has been my saving grace. I went from a naive, isolated homemaker to a woman who saw the needs in the world and learned how to minister in Christ to those needs. I served eight years on my district team and four years on my conference team and loved every minute of it. I have met many women from all over this country and the world at Assembly and I am continually amazed that women are always the leaders in mission.

I have studied many countries of the world and many needs such as poverty, immigration, hunger, human trafficking and oppression, to name a few. I keep up by reading this newsletter, and each time I have another cutting-edge mission to celebrate and unheard voices to share. I pray for our work always.

Thank you for being there for me and for all those in need around the globe. United Methodist Women will always hold a special place in my heart as you continue to do battle for women and children on this global unit we call earth.

Love and blessings,
Darlene E. Crawford

Serving the hungry

United Methodist Women in South Dakota participate in Nightwatch Canteen.

by Lisa Graue

Members of the Nan Circle at First United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, help pack and distribute sack lunches with other United Methodist Churches in Sioux Falls as part of the Salvation Army’s Nightwatch Canteen, an effort to provide meals to those in the community who may not otherwise have a meal. The meals are made and packed on Sundays and distributed Sunday evenings by a small team in two different locations in central Sioux Falls.

The Nan Circle was named after Global Ministries’ missionary Nan McCurdy, who works with Asociacion Mujer y Comunidad, a project supported by United Methodist Women to empower women and youth in rural Nicaragua.

Lisa Graue is a member of United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls, S.D.
Mission Resources

Welcomed by God, Welcoming All

United Methodist Women Program Book 2014-2015

$10
- English (M3216)
- Spanish (M3217)
- Korean (M3218)

With 12 monthly and two special programs, the Program Book will help you explore the various facets of welcome from scripture. It presents many opportunities to learn about and participate in ministry work that makes a difference in the lives of women, children and youth. The programs will strengthen your relationship with God so that you can be effective witnesses through your service and advocacy, time and money.

Prayer Calendar 2015

$14 (M3215)

Within this calendar you will find daily lectionary readings, holidays and special days, daily lists to focus your prayers on mission projects, advocacy issues and birthdays of people in mission as well as children’s art, stories, meditations and testimonies of global partners to inspire you. Use this as a daily resource for meditation, planning and for sharing insight and information about the mission work of the church.

Program Date Book 2015

$1.50 (M3214)

This calendar booklet printed annually helps you keep track of relevant dates for United Methodist Women month by month. Program Book and mission study titles are listed. Also included are charts for recording meetings, events and contact details.

Annual Sampler 2015

Order next year’s sampler and receive these essential resources:

- 2015 geographic study on Latin America, $10
- 2015 spiritual growth study on finding joy in Christian living, $10
- 2015-2016 Program Book, $10
- 2016 Prayer Calendar, $14
- 2016 Date Book, $1.50

Total value: $45.50

SAMPLER PRICE: $40
(a savings of $5.50)

Sign up once and receive the resources as they become available! Studies ship January 2015, and Prayer Calendar, Program Book and Date Book ship August 2015. Free shipping! (Sampler subscription must be renewed each year.)