Greetings to each and everyone one of you. May joy and peace be with during this season of Lent.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 is one of my favorite passages from the Bible and one of my favorite songs. It is a summary of what I feel about time. Throughout the year it is easy to get lost in the busyness of our daily lives of doing that we forget to see the person or situation of another. I ask that during our journey through this season of Lent and we navigate through the busyness of life itself, we look beyond ourselves, and see and hear the people we interact with on a daily basis and those we meet in passing for the first time.

I am sure many of you have seen the video of a young boy in the kitchen of his home, loading up his back pack with two drinks and several Twinkies. His mom asks him where he is going and he responds that he is going out to find God. He takes a bus and then walks to a park and has not found God yet. He finally sees a park bench. He walks over to the park bench and sits down next to what might appear to some a homeless woman. He says nothing and she says nothing. He takes a Twinkie out of his backpack, opens the package and realizes there are two in the package, and there is someone else in his presence. So, he offers the lady a Twinkie. She accepts the Twinkie with a smile and a nod, but they still have each said nothing, but just smile at each other. Then he takes one of his drinks from his backpack, looks at the woman sitting next to him and offers it to her with a smile. She accepts with a smile and a nod. He then opens the other bottle of juice and they share time on the bench together, eating, and drinking, and talking. He then realizes the time, and collects his backpack, smiles, waves goodbye, and heads home. When he gets home his mom asks him if he found God. He told his mom that he found God and she was a woman. The video then pans back to the woman in the park, who moves to another location and sits down near one of her park friends. The whole time she is beaming with a smile. The other lady asks her how come you’re smiling so much, what has made you so happy? The lady from the park bench says she saw God today, and he was not what she expected. He was a little boy.

Our United Methodist Women’s Purpose clearly states we are a “group of women whose purpose is to know God”. I believe to know God is more than just reading about God. It is actually taking the intentional time to hear, see, and feel God around us. During Lent, many people are “giving up something”, or doing something that will help them reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us so that we may know God more clearly. I decided to do several things as I journey through this season of Lent. One thing that I am willing to share with you is that I am journaling where I have seen God each day during my journey through Lent. I am going to be intentional. I am going to open my eyes to see and ears to hear. (continued, page 2)
(President's message, continued)

My point in telling this story is that we, too, have to take time to prepare ourselves to be God’s disciples. We have to refresh, rekindle, and renovate our spirit to be the best we can be as disciples of Christ. As we renew our strength, we have to look beyond ourselves and seek that which is outside. As United Methodist Women, we must prepare ourselves for action in a world of many injustices. We must open our ears, hearts, and minds to better the lives of those we meet, especially women, children, and youth, regardless of whether or not they find God.

*************

Congratulations to Local Organizations for Achievements during 2017!

2017 Five Star Awards
Desert Spring United Methodist Women
First Henderson United Methodist Women
Journey United Methodist Women
Mesquite United Methodist Women
St Michael's United Methodist Women
Trinity United Methodist Women
Zion United Methodist Women

Living the Charter for Racial Justice
Maintained recognition as a Charter Unit for 2017:
Journey United Methodist Women
Mesquite United Methodist Women

2017 Mission Today Units
Faith Unit - Met their Pledge to Mission in full (Monetary, Prayers, Presence or Service):
First Henderson United Methodist Women

Faith & Hope Units - Completed 8 items required items and met Pledge to Mission in Full:
Hope United Methodist Women
Mesquite United Methodist Women
Mohave Valley United Methodist Women
St. Michael's United Methodist Women
Zion United Methodist Women

Faith, Hope & Love Unit - Completed 15 items and met Pledge to Mission in full:
Advent United Methodist Women

Faith, Hope & Love in Action Units - Completed 20 required items and met Pledge to Mission in full and gave beyond their pledge:
Desert Spring United Methodist Women
Journey United Methodist Women
In case you didn’t get the word, our 2017 giving for North District was $10,000 over and above our initial Pledge to Mission of $18,000. In addition, we gave $160 to Gift to Mission, $604 to Gift in Memory, $440 to Mission Recognition, $703 to World Thank, and $321 to Prayer & Self Denial. UMCOR received $1,100. That is a total of $31,328. A special thank you to those units who were able to give over and above their initial pledge.

Unfortunately, there were some units who did not get their money to me by December 10, which meant that whatever they sent was credited to 2018 even though the check may have been cashed in 2017. I cannot emphasize enough how important that final date is for me to finish my paperwork and get the money on the way to the conference. That date will probably be the same this year so please put it on your calendar so that all that you give in 2018 will be credited for 2018.

I know it seems early, but I need 2019-unit budgets by the end of March so that the district can plan its 2019 budget. Most of you basically maintain what you gave the previous year but if you could increase your pledge just by 5% it would be very helpful. For most units that is less than $100. You can either mail your budget to me at Sharon Scobie, 5224 Saranac Road, Las Vegas, NV 89130-0170 or email them to me, sscobie42@gmail.com

And, don’t forget that five-star giving. My unit puts a minimum amount of $5 or $10 in the budget for Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory, $40 for Mission Recognition, and an amount based on the previous year’s giving for World Thank. That way, we are always sure we will be recognized as a five-star giving unit.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 702-423-9644. If I am unable to answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you.

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Journey UMW Partners with American Heart Association

For the second year, Journey United Methodist Women members participated in the American Heart Association’s “Big Hearts, Little Hats” project. During February AHA donates little red caps to participating hospitals during February to give to mothers and newborn babies, along with printed information about heart health. Our members made 49 little red caps this year. We have already started making caps for next year!
United Methodist Women gathered for leadership development and training in January at two different locations on two different dates.

Both events included a 3-hour Mini Mission class, using the geographic study “Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States.” The training portion of each event included district officers sharing how each office on the local level functions to achieve the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

Participants in the Leadership Development event at First Henderson UMC on January 20 included UMW leaders from Desert Spring UMC, Journey UMC, Advent UMC, Trinity UMC, Zion UMC and First Henderson UMC.

Patricia Feaster, North District Social Action coordinator, discusses racial injustice during the leadership event at First Henderson UMC.

Unfortunately, we don’t have a photo from the event at Hope! It was a great gathering in the River Cluster on January 6, with women from Hope and Mohave Valley UMCs in attendance.

HELP WANTED – NO PAY – GREAT REWARD – IMPORTANT – APPRECIATED

North District UMW needs a publisher for our quarterly newsletter. Skills are needed—your skills or those of someone you can recommend. Contact Eileen at equillermo@aol.com for details.
Many women attending the leadership training event at First Henderson wore red in support of the United Methodist Women campaign “In the Red Zone” to bring awareness of the fight against human trafficking.

Advent United Methodist Women members wore red on Super Bowl Sunday to support the UMW campaign, “Standing in the Red Zone,” to bring awareness to sex trafficking.

PURPOSE
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.
For 2018, Desert Spring UMW picked *Spread the Word Nevada* (STWN) to support with our time, talent, and gifts.

*Spread the Word Nevada* is a children’s literacy nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing early childhood literacy by placing books in the hands and homes of children within Southern Nevada’s at-risk, low income communities.

In order to meet the book needs of children in our valley, we are running a book drive and we have scheduled training sessions at church for their Books & Buddies Reading Mentor program.

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**Social Action Issues**

Patricia Feaster, Social Action Coordinator

Social Action is an important part of this organization and I am attempting to learn my roll of Social Action Coordinator.

Why should we get Involved in Social Issues?

Homelessness, hunger, poverty, racism, illiteracy, economic justice, war and peace, health care for children and international conflicts….. these are just a few.

Our President, Eileen Guillermo, is guiding me to what, when and where I should be doing my job. So far we are working with Conference United Methodist Women to present an event regarding Mass Incarceration of Communities of Color, which includes the school to prison pipeline issues. See pages 10 and 11 for more information and registration form.

There are many issues to address these days and if you feel there is something we need to discuss please feel free to call me at 702-642-9185.

*******
The Reading Program is a great way to incorporate United Methodist Women issues into your local unit programs. There are so many books that give us information, from events happening around the world to our own neighborhoods. If your unit members haven’t participated in the reading program yet, then take advantage of having book reports done during your meetings. This may be just the incentive for other members to read the book. Keep a record of the books you read in each category. You also get credit for reading youth and children’s selections. At the end of the year submit report forms for each person. A certificate will be given to each.

There are five categories: 1) Education for Mission  2) Social Action  3) Leadership Development  4) Nurturing for Community  5) Spiritual Growth.

There are four plan levels. Level One means that one book from each category was read. Level Two, two books from each category were read. Level Three, read two books from each category, plus five additional books from any category. Level Four, read two books from each category, plus 10 additional books from any category. In addition to the books, each plan requires regular reading of response and New World Outlook magazines.

I look forward to a great year of reading. *******

Book Review

Sharon Scobie

As many of you know, I like to read books that I haven’t read which will be going off the list next year. I recently finished the book, Mind on the Run, A Bipolar Chronicle by Dottie Pacharis from the 2013 list. It is the story of Scott C. Baker who was bipolar and the struggle he and his family went through during five major bipolar manic episodes. It is very descriptive and gives one a good idea what living with this ailment is like for both the person and his/her family.

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Unit Presidents: Unit presidents are asked to complete this information form for the 2017 United Methodist Women census. Gathering this information will enable the organization to meet our members’ needs more efficiently as well as inform our growth, outreach and impact.


The United Methodist Women will never share contact information outside the organization without permission.

The form is at https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/ Click on this icon

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you don’t have access to a computer. I will be happy to complete the online form for you. You will need number of members on January 1, 2017, number of members lost during the year and number added during the year.

Allie Lakey, Educating Members for Mission, Desert Southwest Conference, 702-649-6217
Join us for our Annual Day of Giving

On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, what would become United Methodist Women. Those women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

Since then, for nearly 150 years, United Methodist Women has evolved to become the largest women's faith-based service and advocacy organization, underwriting programs that provide life-changing opportunities for women, children and youth.

We are pleased to announce that generous donors have committed funds to leverage and grow the gifts received on Day of Giving, March 23, 2018. Your gift can have an even greater impact by contributing the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign on Day of Giving!

Endowment Campaign on Day of Giving!

The Legacy Fund is a forward-looking permanently invested endowment, the earnings of which will strengthen our organization, so that future giving can be even more directly linked to our projects and partners, addressing injustice and alleviating suffering. Your contribution to the Legacy Fund will underwrite endeavors to strengthen our internal capacity (in lieu of core expenses) to further invest in life-changing programs and services, that create a promising tomorrow for future generations of United Methodist Women members in answering God’s call to serve.

Every United Methodist Women member is encouraged to reflect on their charitable giving and contribute to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign in the form of cash, check, securities, stock, life insurance, planned gifts and bequests. Any amount is welcome before, during and after Day of Giving: March 23! Together, we are building our Legacy.

Give:
Online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund
By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST, M - F)
By check:
United Methodist Women
Attn: Development, Legacy Fund
475 Riverside Drive, 15th floor
New York, NY 10115
Write “The Legacy Fund” in the memo section
By text on your mobile device: Text 41444 and enter Legacy150 in the message area.

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Members organized and conducted both church services on United Methodist Women’s Sunday. The photo above includes those that participated in the services. Pictured from left to right: Joyce Burke, Judy Steele, Lois Robinson, Louise Hartwell, Barb Brown, Sherril Esteban, Helen Springer, Jackie Ross, Lucy Halbrooks, Cecelia Elmore, Lola Foglesong, Jean Milroy, Janet Leonard, Kay Johnson, and Cyndy Montgomery.

St Michael’s United Methodist Women of Lake Havasu City, Arizona is 42 members strong. We were busy in 2017 and look forward to see what opportunities will present themselves in 2018.

Our group holds monthly book club meetings using books from our program resources/reading program. During 2017, we collected canned goods for the Salvation Army. We sent $75 to the Legacy Fund commemorating 150 years of United Methodist Women.

We held a Mardis Gras dinner and invited the entire church. A jazz ensemble provided entertainment. The King baby was found hidden within the King’s cake, by our pastor’s daughter, Maya Harriss.

Our group sent $250 to UMCOR for cleaning buckets for flood victims. We held a 4th of July hot dot supper/ice cream social for the church and watched fireworks after dark. During our craft Christmas Bazaar, unit members sold jewelry, handmade cards, and baked goods. We labeled 350 bars of soap and 4 cases of toilet paper to give to our local Interagency. They in turn, gave the items to Meals on Wheels and the Food Bank.

Throughout the year we gave money in $100 increments to our Local Meals on Wheels program, Military Moms, VFW, and local Christian radio station all in support of mission projects. We provided $200 each to the Salvation Army and the Wesley Center, and $250 to District and National office, and gave $1,000 pledge to United Methodist Women.

*******
Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration

A Social Justice Event
Sponsored by Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women

Saturday, March 17, 2018
8:45 AM to Noon

Journey United Methodist Church
6450 E. Stewart Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89110

ALL WELCOME – BRING FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!
Register by March 10 – Click here for registration form.

Mass Incarceration 101 : A Webinar
· why mass incarceration is one of the key racial justice issues of our time

The School to Prison Pipeline
· what is it? who gets caught in it? why?
· interrupting the pipeline

Keynote Speaker: Ender Hope Austin III
Ender is a force in the Las Vegas Valley, serving as mentor, community organizer and youth leader. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Nevada Community Associates; Make it Work; Moms Demand Action; and Las Vegas Urban League Young Professionals. He serves as youth pastor at Bethesda Church of God in Christ in North Las Vegas.
CRIMINALIZATION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & MASS INCARCERATION
- A National Priority Issue -
Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women
Social Justice Event – March 17, 2018
8:45 AM - Noon
JOURNEY UMC, 6450 E. Stewart Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89110

Registration, $7.00 – includes light breakfast.
Contact: Nancy Jamison, Conference Social Action Coordinator (602) 295-4882

keep top, mail the bottom portion

NAME: ___________________________________________ E-MAIL: ________________________________
Please print
ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________________________
Street
_____________________________________________________________________________________
City ST Zip (9 digit if possible)
PHONE: _____________________________________________

Local Church: __________________________________________________ or UMW ________________________

Emergency contact: _________________________________ ________________________ (required)
Name Phone

Special Dietary Needs: Vegetarian Gluten free No Milk/Dairy No Nuts

Do you give permission to be photographed and authorize photos to be used in United Methodist Women newsletters
and other publications, promotional material and/or social media? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you need child care? _____ Yes _____ No Number of Children ____ Age(s) ________
No charge, but please bring a bag lunch for your child(ren)

Request for childcare must be received by March 10.

Registration (including children) must be postmarked March 8 or earlier.

No childcare requests after 3/10/18.

Use one registration form per person please.
A group may send several registrations in one envelope together with payment.
Checks are made out to: Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women

Mail to: Allie Lakey, registrar questions: (702) 649-6217
2521 Lincoln Ave alliel@cox.net
North Las Vegas NV 89030-5006

❖ A refund can be made if cancellation is received by the event registrar five days prior to the meeting.
❖ A registration may be transferred to another person.
North District United Methodist Women 2018 Calendar  
Schedule of Meetings, Events & Activities  
Revised - March 3, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>All units start work on 2019 budget--due April 30, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>ND Leadership Development – Hope UMC, Bullhead City, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>ND Leadership Development – First Henderson UMC, Henderson, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Deadline for North District Newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 23-24</td>
<td>Conference Leadership Team Meeting – Dayspring – Tempe AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>North District Team Meeting – Location – Advent UMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>ND Social Justice Event – Journey UMC @ 8:45 – 12:00</td>
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<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>Annual UMW Day of Giving – Legacy 150</td>
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<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>Mar 30</td>
<td><strong>Unit Census Deadline to National</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>Advent UMW Dinner and Movie (The Shack) – All are invited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Conference Leadership Team Meeting – Zoom</td>
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<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>Trinity UMW Service and Recognition</td>
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<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>2019 Unit Budgets due to District Treasurer</td>
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<td>May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17-20</td>
<td>UMW National Assembly – Columbus, Ohio</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
<td>Deadline for Mission u Scholarship Application</td>
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<td>Jun 2</td>
<td>North District Team Meeting – First Henderson UMC</td>
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<td>Jun 13-17</td>
<td>United Methodist Church Annual Conference – Glendale, AZ</td>
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<td>Jul 13-14</td>
<td>Mission u North District – Advent UMC, Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>Aug 3-4</td>
<td>Mission u East/West – Velda Rose, Mesa, AZ</td>
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<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>Legacy 150 Fundraiser North District (location TBD)</td>
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<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>Deadline for North District Newsletter</td>
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<td>Aug 24-25</td>
<td>Mission u South – St Marks UMC, Tucson, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 1</td>
<td>North District Team Meeting – Journey UMC, Rm 4</td>
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<td>Sep 8</td>
<td>Conference Leadership Team Meeting – Zoom</td>
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<td>Oct 6</td>
<td>Desert Spring Holiday Fair</td>
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<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>North District Team Meeting – Trinity UMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>North District Annual Celebration – Trinity UMC</td>
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<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Conference Annual Celebration set up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Conference Annual Celebration - Desert Spring UMC, Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>Nov 9-10</td>
<td>Conference Leadership Team Retreat – Dayspring</td>
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<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Deadline for North District Newsletter</td>
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<td>Nov 16-17</td>
<td>Leadership Development Days - Tempe, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>North District Team Meeting – Eileen Guillermo’s Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Local Unit Treasurer’s Reports &amp; Money Due to District Treasurer</td>
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<td>Dec 31</td>
<td>Local Unit Forms Due:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Reading Program participants’ names to Secretary Program Resources</td>
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<td>(2) Mission Today forms to District President,</td>
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<td>(3) Living the Charter for Racial Justice forms to District President</td>
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<td>(4) Unit Leadership Team List to District President</td>
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