

West District
CACTUS PATCH NEWSLETTER

Published for United Methodist Women

President Cheryl Buchholtz

June 2019

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2019 Theme

"Changing the World With GRACE"

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received
to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in
its various forms.*

~ Peter 4:10

GET READY...GET SET....GO - to Mission u 2019.

August 2-3.....Mission u East/West

Lakeview United Methodist Church, Sun City

To register or for information:

Check the conference website in Spring

<https://dscumc.org/united-methodist-women/>

Dean - Glenda Hill

TOPICS

Theme:

Radical Discipleship: Then and Now

- Practicing Resurrection:
The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship
- Women United for Change:
150 Years in Mission
- What About Our Money?
A Faith Response

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE
WEST DISTRICT
LOCAL ORGANIZATION CALENDAR**

- DSW Annual Conference (church)** June 12 – 16, 2019
Mesa Convention Center
- Mission u, East/West Districts** August 2 – 3, 2019
Lakeview United Methodist Church
First Sun City United Methodist Church to assist
- Cactus Patch Articles Due** August 15, 2019
- West District Annual Celebration** October 5, 2019
Epworth United Methodist Church, 4802 N. 59th Ave., Phoenix 85033
- Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration** October 27, 2019
Sun Lakes United Methodist Church, 9248 East Riggs, Sun Lakes, AZ 852458
- Cactus Patch Articles Due** November 15, 2019
- Please send Cactus Patch articles to Cheryl Buchholtz: westpresBuchholtz@yahoo.com.

DUE DATE	WHEN REPORTS ARE DUE	SEND TO
Sept. 1	Memorial List	District MC Membership Care
Nov. 30	Your local organization's officers information	District Secretary
Dec. 10	Local Organization Final Financial Report	District Treasurer
Dec. 10	Reading Program Participant's Information	District Secretary of Resources
Dec. 31	Living the Charter for Racial Justice Reporting Form	District MC Social Action
Dec. 31	Mission Today Forms	District President
Dec. 31	Outstanding Local Organization Form	Dist. Education for Mission

SAVE THE DATE:

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN to host 2019 West District United Methodist Annual Meeting on October 5th. Make this date part of your planning now!

Chatter from Cheryl

United Methodist Church DSW WD President Cheryl Buchholtz

westpresBuchholtz@yahoo.com



POLITICS.....POLITICS.....POLITICS!!!!

This has never been one of my favorite words and when I was younger, I will have to admit that back in the day I didn't really pay close attention to the topic. But, today it is right there in our faces and if you don't think so, just listen to the news or read the paper. If you choose not to be informed, it doesn't mean that these issues don't exist.

Our Mission u topics promise to be very relevant for the issues that we are facing in our communities. I have already read *Practicing Resurrection* and believe me, we are talking about today's world.

Is your church involved in caring for the least of these (and I am not speaking in terms of "worth")? There are a multitude of opportunities out there. You don't have to look any further than our own neighborhoods for people and families that need our assistance. You can make contributions of goods, meals or money to the JUSTA Center, the only day center in the United States that serves senior homeless.

(<https://justacenter.org>). Both Wesley Community Center and Golden Gate Community Center (<https://wesleycenterphx.org>) could use snacks and juice boxes as they gear up to provide services for children out of school for the summer. Family Promise is always looking for assistance in providing meals and beds for homeless families.

(<https://familypromise.org>). And, there are currently a number of churches that are helping out with meals and a place to sleep for the asylum seekers that are making their way to their sponsors and court dates as they seek a safe place to live and raise their families.

Mission work in our own back yard is the fulfillment of Jesus's command to "love others" and "serve". Take the time to look for ways for your units to focus on active ways to be Christ's hands in our world today.

Blessings for all that you do ~

Cheryl

THE PURPOSE OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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.



Notes from Eva Ndavu

United Methodist Women DSW WD Vice-President

erndavu@yahoo.com

The desert....will lead you to your heart....where I will speak. (Hosea 2:14)
And Jesus said, "Come away to a desert place and rest awhile." (Mark 6:31)

United Methodist Women of the Desert Southwest Conference attended a spiritual growth retreat March 23-24 at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson.

Emily Jones, executive for racial justice at UMW national, led the retreat and did a marvelous job preparing the participants to be lights in the world. She emphasized this as a time to relax our bodies and renew our spirits, to let go of the worries of the world, embrace the beautiful surroundings and listen to God's voice. The main sessions were based on James 2:1-6a, Ephesians 6:10-17, Jeremiah 31:15-17 and Matthew 2:18. From Esther 4, we read that Esther's call was to be a light in the world, to join a sisterhood of grace.

The school-to-prison pipeline is a devastating reality of our education systems today; it has been described exhaustively in Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. "School-to-prison" pipeline refers to the systems which reroute children and youth of color. funnel them away from educational success and drive them towards the criminal justice system. Imagine how different that is from the "privileged ones" who are educationally tracked so as to succeed in standardized testing, advanced classes, and specialized courses aimed at college entrance or similar institutional advancement. The school-to-prison pipeline can be observed in implicit racial and gender biases. Excessive out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, zero tolerance policies, and status offenses. UMW has for some time actively worked to interrupt this pipeline. We have sought to educate ourselves and others. Join community-based campaigns, pray the educators and leaders; and support community youth leaders. This is an on-going struggle, but we can work together for change so that all children are treated equally.

Apart from the refreshing speakers and facilitators, the weekend included restorative activities such as the musical gatherings; small group; free time to explore the petroglyphs, stations of the cross and the gift shop. The evening Jeopardy game was the worst ever! We were poorly prepared and seemed to have little knowledge of our UMW legacy (confidentially, I do 100% better of my nightly shout-outs to Alex Trebek), but it was all in fun.

Of course, much of the success of the retreat was due to location. The RRC is situated in the Tucson Mountains and includes 120 acres bordering Saguaro National Part West. As this was my first DSW retreat and my first visit to this area, I used much of the free time to search for the petroglyphs or "picture rocks" incised by the native Hohokam. The stations of the cross provided me with spiritual and restorative growth in partial preparation for Easter. The DSW Conference retreat was a rewarding experience and I recommend it for all UMW.

Tids and Bits by Christine Jones.

United Methodist Women DSW WD Secretary



It is that time of year again, when thoughts go to escaping the summer heat. I know a lot of you had great activities this spring, with Easter and Spring events popping up all over the district, I know I always had something to do.

The next fun event we will have will be Mission u, August 2-3 at Lakeview UMC, Sun City. If you have never been to a Mission u, this is the year to attend.

This year they will pay close attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. My first venture into Mission u was 3 years ago, and it was so worth the trip. I didn't know anyone and met with so many new sisters. They made me feel welcomed and loved. It was an opportunity that I will never forget.

I hope to see all of you there.

God bless you, Christine Jones, jones.sensei@gmail.com

Committee on Nominations

United Methodist Women DSC WD Chairs Pam and Helen Jackson



The Committee of Nominations has been busy this year. We had successful LDD trainings in January and February. Involved in the LDD training was a meeting with Conference chairpersons of Nominations, Arvilla Jungman and Jeannine Reynolds to cover the most important aspects of the Nominating Committee's job. Later the District Nominations committee met together and discussed the fact that we do not have any signed agreements for the team from 2019. We have sent each team member a self-addressed envelope and an agreement - we are making a real effort to make sure we have those letters of commitment on file.

We are still looking for volunteers to fill 2 positions on the Nominating Committee, Membership Care and Program Resources

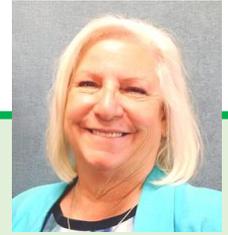
In Jesus Name,

Pam Jackson pd-jackson36111@live.com

Helen Jackson phjackson1@q.com

Money Matters by Michele Justice

United Methodist Women DSW WD Treasurer



Dear Fellow United Methodist Women sisters:

This past March I was grateful to attend the "Spring Retreat" in Tucson at the Redemptorist. This was not my first time, and I am quite certain it won't be my last! What a joy to spend 2 days with Sisters in Christ, to learn and expand my thinking, to grow closer to our Lord, to see the beauty of the desert, and to discuss issues that are distressing and sad, but that we must work together to resolve in some way that is GOOD for all. The discussion led by Emily Jones from the National office was really thought provoking. She explored our UMW timeline and the actions that our ancestors of United Methodist Women have taken since the beginning, to correct wrongs, ensure fair treatment, halt offensive actions and lead the way of justice and fairness.

She spoke to us about rooting ourselves in the love of Jesus and grounding ourselves in biblical teachings, James, Acts, Corinthians! She challenged us to commit to taking part in pursuing changes in our society for the good. She even helped us to recognize our own prejudices because understanding ourselves leads to understanding others. On a sad note, we won't have another Spring Retreat again until 2021, but I hope to see you there.

On another note, we are working on our West District budget for 2020, so prayers will be greatly appreciated. We will have the draft ready for submission by mid-July then ready for approval by the Desert Southwest Conference in August.

Blessings to all sisters for this summer, may yours be filled with good health, good food and good fun!

Sincerely, Your sister in Christ

Michele Justice, WD Treasurer

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Linda's 2019 Book Report on Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt, by Arthur C. Brooks

My mother bought this book and shared it with me. It seems like good, important news, a welcome relief, since the last few years of politics have been stressful for me and most people I know. The future of our country looks pretty bleak, in that our Republicans and Democrats seem pitted against each other, unwilling to work together for the good of our country. Republicans are apt to believe Democrats are evil and stupid, and vice versa. We avoid talking to people who don't agree with us. Love is far from what I feel for the political "other side". Love is more than civility and tolerance. It wants the best for the other person. We should try make our enemy into a friend by showing kindness instead of contempt. Ephesians 2:14 says Christ has broken down the walls of contempt that used to separate us. He also said, "Love your enemies".

Brooks is a Roman Catholic, but he has collaborated on projects with the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama says we should respond to contempt, in ourselves or from others, with "warm-heartedness". Contempt is poison for relationships and working together and learning from others. Kindness and warm-heartedness are the antidote for that poison. Contempt is never morally justified, and it is damaging physically and psychologically for both the rejecter and the rejected.

Here are three major lessons from the science of morality that Brooks emphasizes:

1. Focus your arguments on the moral values we share--compassion and fairness--rather than those held by only one part of the population.
2. Be wary of manipulative leaders in politics and media who use the moral dimensions where we disagree as a wedge to divide us and fuel contempt.
3. Divergent moral values are not a bug in the human system. They are a feature that can make us stronger. Exposing yourself to and learning about other people's moral foundations (why they believe what they believe) makes it easier to cope with them emotionally.

Brooks, in his final chapter, offers rules to subvert the culture of contempt:

1. Stand up to the Man. Refuse to be used by the powerful.
2. Escape the bubble. Go where you're not invited, and say things people don't expect.
3. Say no to contempt. Treat others with love and respect even when it is difficult.
4. Disagree better. Be part of a healthy competition of ideas.
5. Tune out: Disconnect more from the unproductive debates.

Read, Read and then Read Some More

United Methodist Women DWC WD Program Resources Coordinator

Colleen Becker cbecker14@cox.net



Just had a reminder email from Cheryl that it is time to write an article for the Cactus Patch. I hope all of you have been reading many of the books from the reading list. There are so many great titles again this year. As the hotter weather approaches, now is a good time to stay inside and read.

In March I saw many of you at Redemptorist Center in Tucson for the Spiritual Growth Retreat. Emily Jones, executive for racial justice for United Methodist Women, was the retreat leader. This was a time for each of us to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery and renew our spirit. I always especially enjoy the morning watch at the outdoor chapel. Watching the sun rise over the mountain is assurance that God brings light in the world for us.

Mission u comes to the West District this year at Lakeview United Methodist Church on August 2nd and 3rd. We hope to see you there.

Next, let's think about membership. We still need someone to step up and become the coordinator for Membership Care. As you can see the District Leadership Team has lots of fun. This is one of the easier positions on the team. This would be a great opportunity for someone to join us. We only meet 4 times a year for team planning. You can contact any of the district officers if you might be interested.

Colleen Becker, Secretary of Program Resources



Calling u..... Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event

Yes, United Methodist Women Sisters. You need to set aside **April 17-19, 2020** to plan to attend this event. It will be held at Doubletree Hilton Hotel and Convention Center in Tempe, AZ. This will be action packed, fun filled and informative as well as a very spiritual time to meet others in the Western Jurisdiction and reconnect. Anyone from the West District that would like to volunteer to help with this event please contact me. There are many opportunities to get better acquainted with sisters that have the same passion to fulfill the purpose of United Methodist Women. One on-site Ubuntu project will be to make mats for the homeless. Start now collecting plastic bags to donate for this worthwhile project. I can deliver them for you.

Colleen Becker, West District Program Resources, cbecker14@cox.net, 623-341-5107



LIVING WAGE

The Bible: Doom to him who builds palaces but bullies people, who makes a fine house but destroys lives, who cheats his workers and won't pay them for their work.. (**Jeremiah 22:13**)

The United Methodist Church: A living wage in a safe and healthy workplace with reasonable hours of work is a universal right not restricted by national borders. (**2016 Book of Resolution, #4104, "Living Wage Model."**)

Living Wage: Interfaith Worker Justice: A living wage is the amount a working people must earn to adequately provide food, housing, utilities, transportation, and health care, without assistance from public benefits programs. For a family head of household it would also include childcare. A study by the Economic Policy Institute has shown that a living wage of \$15 per hour would lift the wages of 41 million working people -- nearly 30% of the workforce. Every ten percent increase in the minimum wage would correlate to a **5.3%** decrease in the poverty rate.

Definition of a Living Wage: Refers to a theoretical wage level that allows an individual to afford adequate shelter, food, and other necessities. A living wage should be substantial enough to ensure that no more than 30% of it is spent on housing. The goal of a living wage is to allow employees to earn enough income for a satisfactory standard of living.

Living Wage & Minimum Wage: A living wage allows for increases as inflation rises. A minimum wage was established by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1938. The minimum wage is \$7.25. Most states also have their own minimum wage requirements. In some states the minimum wage is below the federal wage and then the federal wage must apply.

The Facts:

Since 2009, the federal minimum wage in the United States has remained at \$7.25 per hour ranking us 11th among industrialized countries.

The wealth of the 8 richest people on the planet is now equal to that of the poorest 3.6 billion people combined.

Over the last 25 years, the annual income of the poorest 10% of the world's population has risen less than \$3 per year.

The U.S. federal poverty threshold with two adults and one child is \$20,160. An adult working a minimum wage job 40 hours per week, 52 weeks a year, would earn only \$15,080 (before taxes).

Spiritual Growth

United Methodist Women DSC WD Jen Kistler

bionicjen@gmail.com



Hello ladies!

I am going to write today about *fear*. We as humans can easily become afraid. We can become afraid of just about anything. Lately, I have become afraid about my family finances. Everything my faith has taught me is that I don't need to remain afraid if I just take things to God, I, however, in my infinite wisdom always believe that I can handle my problems by myself. Of course, that is a big joke.

I know the first place that I need to go with anything that is bothering me is to God. Had I done that? No! When I finally realized that I had left God out of the equation, I felt really stupid. It would have saved me a whole lot of anguish and negative thoughts about myself. I have come to the conclusion that there are times I feel I have inadequate skills to properly handle my finances.

I finally went to God in prayer and felt a small measure of peace about my financial situation. I then realized I needed to dig into the Bible to remind myself what God has to say about "fear" and "trust".

Hebrews 2:12 says "I will put my trust in Him". This verse reminds me that God is always with me, so I am never alone. I need not fear. The bottom line is that I need to constantly remind myself that God is there for me (us) and I need to listen for the answers He gives me every day.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

~Philippians 4:13

This devotional from *Every Single Day* by Jim Smoke goes along with the thoughts that Jen has shared.

Promise: God Has Not Deserted You

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

~Jeremiah 29: 11 NIV

The picture looked pretty bleak for Israel. They were in captivity in Babylon when Jeremiah sent them a letter of encouragement. His letter was a clear promise that God had not deserted them. Even though they were to live through tough times in a foreign land, God was still going to work through them. His promise to them was that he had a plan in mind. That plan contained four elements.

First, He would prosper them even in oppressive surroundings. Second, He would protect them from any harm that might come their way. Third, He would give them a hope that would take them through each day. And fourth, He had a future in mind for

Every Single Day, cont.

Babylon was not the end of the road. It was merely a challenge on the journey.

When all of your well-laid plans seem to go off track, do you find yourself feeling deserted by God? Wouldn't it be great to get a letter in the mail like the one Jeremiah sent to the captives? The same promise that God sent through Jeremiah to Israel is His promise for you today. He hasn't abandoned you. He still has the blueprint for your life in His hand. Claim today's promise for yourself. Begin to live today, knowing that God has these same four things in mind for you as He has for His children many years ago.



Members new to the position are highlighted in red.

President 2020 - 2024	Colleen BeckerFirst United Methodist Church, Sun City
Vice-President (Continuing)	Eva Ndavu.....First United Methodist Church, Glendale
Secretary 2020 - 2024	Cheryl BuchholtzTrinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Treasurer (continuing)	Michele Justice..... Liberty United Methodist Church, Liberty
CON (Chairperson of Nominating Committee)	Vicki KeelTrinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Nominating Team Member	Janet RummelNew Song United Methodist Church
Nominating Team Member (continuing)	Pam Jackson.....First United Methodist Church, Glendale
Nominating Team Member (continuing)	Helen Jackson.....First United Methodist Church, Glendale
Social Action (continuing)	Paula Sallas.....Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Spiritual Growth(continuing)	Jen Kistler.....Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Education for Mission (continuing)	Linda Triolo.....First United Methodist Church, Glendale
Communications Coordinator	Christine JonesFirst United Methodist Church, Glendale
Program Resources	vacant
Membership Care	vacant

**Western Jurisdiction United Methodist Women
April 17 - 19, 2020
Doubletree Inn, Tempe, AZ**

Keynote speaker: Katherine Hayhoe, world renowned climatologist

**Harriet Jane Olson will give an update on United Methodist Women
moving forward**

- Ubuntu activities (on and off site)
- Educational opportunities
- Garden labyrinth
- Workshops
- Action event
- Worship
- Cultural event
- Election of two directors of United Methodist Women National
- Election of the Western Jurisdiction leadership team for 2020 - 2024
- Meeting friends - old and new - from all over the western Jurisdiction

We are the host conference so let's have good representation. Couldn't go to the Assembly? Here's your chance to participate beyond our own conference right in our own back yard.

Registration will be open in July. More information will be available on the Desert Southwest Conference website and Southwest Winds e-newsletter at a later time.

Sympathy is extended to former Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women's president, and current treasurer on the passing of her husband, Pastor Joe Brown on May 13.





What's Going on in the Neighborhood?

Trinity United Methodist Women, Phoenix

In spite of small church membership, Trinity United Methodist Women is very involved in the life of our Church community and neighborhood, national and global missions.

Trying to separate the work of Trinity's United Methodist Women from the women who serve on church committees, cook for Family Promise, provide cleaning services for the church, teach Sunday School and VBS, sing in the choir - and much more...let's just say it can't be done. And it is probably not much different in most churches.

The organizational meeting for the month of April was one of those meetings when the lines are blurred. When we planned for 2019, we decided we were going to travel to Tucson to visit The Inn Project, but little did we know that the Inn Project would come to us. So, our meeting in April was from the Program Book and it was tied together with a baby shower. We studied new life and how precious babies and children are - and then we gathered supplies needed for babies, toddlers and young children. We even found time to play some of those silly baby shower games...the only thing that wasn't at the meeting was a pregnant woman and believe me, all of us that were present, were thankful for that...considering our ages range from 50+ to 95.

We had our traditional Mother's Day luncheon on Saturday, May 10th and the theme was "The Run for the Roses" (Kentucky Derby) There was a great collection of handmade hats but the winning entry in the hat contest was our resident "Father/Santa Claus/greeter" who wore a horse's head. It did take some of us back to the bedroom scene from "The Godfather".

Blessings from the ladies at Trinity, Phoenix
Elaine Baldrige, President



New Song United Methodist Women Surprise, AZ

Submitted by New Song UMW Communication Person, Bev Regoulinsky

Catchin' up on New Song's Doins'....

May 9th A "Field Trip" to Phoenix for a tour of UMOM as they share what they do and we tour the Facility and see where our help goes. UMOM is the Largest Shelter for Homeless families in Phoenix, AZ

June 8th we will have the Program "Call to Prayer" this will be at 10:00 AM at the Church on Bell Road with a Lunch to follow.

July 13th is an event that many Ladies from the church look forward to each year, "Ladies Day Out to Lunch"! Open to all the Women from the church to share a special time with Friends and have "Lunch Out"!

August 10th is another event many people from the church look forward to also, The Movie and Lunch Day! The lunch will be at 12 Noon and the Movie will be shown at 1:00 PM. Like many of the UMW programs, this is open to all, looking for a good time in July and want to beat the heat? Join us that day for a fun time!

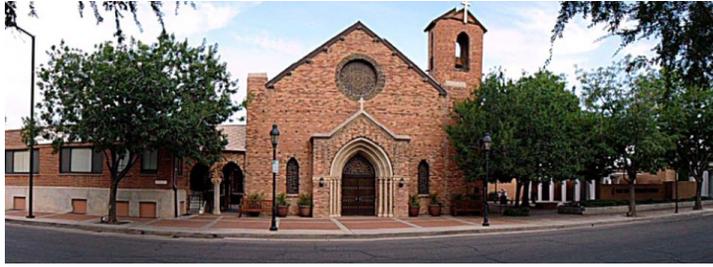
Looking ahead a bit to **November 16**, New Song UMW have planned an all-day Women's Retreat at the: Franciscan Renewal Center. The Spiritual Leader for the retreat will be **Mary Holland**. This will also be open to other churches as well, it will be a day to **Remember**.

The New Song UMW Circles are in full swing with each circle making and sharing with many at the church as well as Community needs. The Dabblers make many neat cards to send to members on their birthdays, get well and any other occasion that comes up - they stay really busy. The Prayer Shawl Ministry, thanks to the Knit Wits, has been busy making the shawls for many people outside the church as well as having some on the church pews each Sunday when the A/C is low or the outside temps are low, these are used by a lot of members each week.

The Needlers are still making quilts and Quilted projects, and some were donated to the Auction in February which brought a great amount of interest plus a great price!

Eve's Cookers have also been making many meals for Eve's Place and have a good number of people helping out each time

Although many people from The New Song UMW officers should be recognized for all the work they do, today we're honoring our Social Action person, **Juanita Howard** who not only plans and contacts the various speakers and set up dates for the UMW, Juanita is also the RN/Faith Community Nurse at New Song. Wearing many hats in her work has kept her very busy and we're proud to have her and her work at New Song, and the UMW.



The FUMC of Glendale United Methodist Women is getting ready to participate in our church's vacation Bible school, which starts June 3. We will be providing a pizza dinner on Tuesday. I will be a group leader. Some Trinity ladies you know, Cheryl Buchholtz and Paula Sallas, will lead the older youths and lead the craft classes, respectively.

In May, we had a fundraiser luncheon, benefiting Maggie's Place, which assists needy pregnant/parenting women, and the Judy's Center, which assists homeless seniors. Entertainment was a fashion show, featuring outfits donated to the Justa Center, and a silent auction. The event was quite successful! We were pleased to have a carload of Lakeview sisters participate. Thank you, sisters!

Our group provides funeral receptions.

I have cooked lunch for 60 Wednesday Open Worship participants every other Wednesday for the last 3 years. I take turns with Sister Lisa. This lunch attracts poor/homeless neighbors. Pastor Kim and three other brothers provide good live music and worship.

A busy, full life! Thank you, Lord!

Linda Triolo,
Glendale United Methodist Women President

Prescott, United Methodist Women

May 2019

At our April 11th United Methodist Women meeting two of our officers that attended the "What About Our Money" class at Mission U 2018 presented a program based on the book they used and the some of the important discussion points they had in class. It was interesting when we each did our own financial biography with how our family addressed money issues and how we did as we grew up on into adulthood. The financial biography gave us an understanding of how we deal with money in the present. The ladies attending enjoyed the process and it made us think about money in some different ways. It was an educational and fun meeting!



Teri and Evelyn Eberle

We were very blessed at our May 9 meeting to have contacted Teri & Evelyn Eberle just a week before our meeting to find that they were available to come to Prescott and present a program. We honored them with a special luncheon since they had made the trek up the mountain to Prescott and it was enjoyed by all. We were so impressed with the couple's background and the stories they told of their lives while living in Africa, Russia and Alaska. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get a personal visit with them and to ask questions. President Karon Keeler asked Teri & Evelyn if they would like a tour of the Little Tree House, a special family project for the poor and underserved which takes place here on our church campus before they headed down to the valley. They said they would love to! They helped her deliver the 80 pounds + of needed items our Unit collected of food items, personal hygiene products, children's books & small toys along with Mother's Day Cards for the children to give to their moms. This was a special meeting to get the chance to get to know a missionary couple listed in our Prayer Calendar. By the way, Evelyn told us how very important those birthday cards being sent to the missionaries are; they are very appreciated by folks far from family & friends and it brightens their day.

If the word isn't getting out, United Methodist Women are losing out. Please be sure to share the information in this newsletter with those who don't have access to a computer or printer.