



Special points of interest:

- Lessons Learned in the Pandemic
- Mission u 2021
- **UMW Voices**
- Holy Humor
- Social Action Report
- United Methodist Women Conference Retreat
- St. Michael's Baby Shower

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
St. Michael's	2
Social Action	3
Conference Retreat	5
Mission u	6
Legacy Fund	9
Voices from the Field	10

North Country Breezes

North District United Methodist Women
Desert Southwest Conference

North Country Breezes

March 2021

President's Message


Karen Dallatore

Last week I was blessed by Mesquite United Methodist Women's five day virtual retreat. Each day was filled with uplifting messages and a lot of humor. Following, you will find slides from day five (it was my personal favorite). They enthusiastically allowed permission to share it verbatim in this newsletter.

Enjoy,
Karen



North District President,
Karen Dallatore, and her
husband, David



Mesquite United Methodist Church
2021 Women's Retreat

Lessons Learned in the Pandemic
Hindsight is 2020

Day Five

The Value of "Uplifting Humor" in an Era of Pandemic
(How to Maintain What's Left of Your Sanity in a Crazy World)

Today's Scripture — Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time
to mourn and a time to dance.

The Value of "Uplifting Humor" in an Era of Pandemic

When I was asked to opine on the Importance of Humor in a time of Pandemic, my first thought was, "Really? Easy-Peasy!" Like I always say, if I didn't have a Sense of Humor, I'd have no sense at all! ;-) (Yeah, I see you all nodding.... I love you anyway!) ;-)

But try finding lots of verses under the heading "Humor". You know....in those last few pages at the back of your Bible? There are "Headings," and then partial verses and whereto find them....

They are really handy as all get out when you need to speak on a topic but want a "shortcut" to get to the verses you are looking for. (Yes, you have used them!) ;-)

I found NO Heading for "Humor"...Soooo, I went back to the "back of the Bible" and looked under the Headings "Joy" and "Love", and "Fellowship"....all elements of uplifting humor.... Try looking up all Those verses! You'll be busy for days! ;-)

Continued...page 4

St. Michael's United Methodist Women, Lake Havasu City

Cyndy Montgomery, President



Tuesday, December 15, 2020 the St. Michael's United Methodist Women held a luncheon and baby shower for the Arizona Children's Association. Noma Byerly accepted the gifts on behalf of the organization. Pictured left to right are: Sylvia Sebolist, Paula Newkirk, Ellen Wheeler, Barb Licari, Trish Beman, Barb Brown, Karen Wilson, Louise Hartwell, Noma Byerley, Joan Lund, Lois Robinson, Jane Murray, Sativa Castellucci, and Pastor Sandy Johnson.



*Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.*

*Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.*

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Social Action Update

Hello Everyone!

This year proves to be an exciting and more productive year than 2020. We have a new Federal Government Administration and a Congress that is more sympathetic to our Social Action Campaigns, which are Decriminalizing Poor/Black/Brown people with unnecessary mass incarcerations, including reform of the juvenile court system. The other campaign is for Climate Justice.

During this time, I have been studying bills and resolutions from Senate, Assembly and joint resolutions from Congress and Assembly. The policies that are of interest to me, and to our Social Action campaigns are the following that I suggest to follow:

MASS INCARCERATION & CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM FOR POOR PEOPLE, PEOPLE OF COLOR & YOUTH

HR.128 – Federal House Resolution – Alternatives to Youth Incarcerations (aka the RAISE Act)

HR.132 – Federal Prison Bureau Non-violent Offender Relief Act

HR.957 – For Secretary of Health & Human Service (HHS) to establish a grant program to protect vulnerable mothers and babies from Climate Change risks.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

HR.69 – Ecologic Biodiversity to conserve and restore protected lands, water and air as well as to preserve wildlife and marine life.

NV AB.97 – Assembly bill to Eliminate chemical and toxic substances in our

Rhonda Glaze

water, regulating water systems useage and limitations. *NV SB.52* – Dark Sky Designation to protect natural ecosystems from light pollution from skylights in unauthorized and non-essential areas. It is an energy conservation bill that promotes outdoor activity.

I have also posted on Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women and Desert Spring United Methodist Women group pages in Facebook about climate crisis problems and possible solutions and human rights for vulnerable communities which I also posted on UU The Poor People's Campaign and Passion For Our Planet group pages.

I received four books in the Reading Program for Social Action, Leadership Development, Spiritual Growth, and Community Nurturing. I am currently reading *The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention* by Rachael A. Keefe about suicide counseling and helping those in a congregation to help and uplift those who are suffering from severe depression and anxiety. It is designed to get church involvement with suicide prevention with fellow parishioners.

I have attended various webinars on decriminalization of underrepresented communities (black/brown and indigenous people). The one I attended was the Townhall Meeting with Rep. Kathy Castor regarding climate crisis issues. **Check out <https://climatecrisis.house.gov/report>.** I also recently attended an



Rhonda Glaze
North District Social
Action Coordinator

***“For Jehovah
is listening
to the poor
ones. And He
will indeed
not despise
His very own
prisoners.”***

Psalm 69:33

Continued...page 8

President's Message

Karen Dallatore
Continued from...page 1

Humor is an amazing gift from God.
Humor Can Lift our spirits...try being angry when laughing! Laugh, and you feel "lighter"!
Humor Can bring an opportunity for new relationships.
Humor can defuse tension...and allow authentic and relaxed dialogue.
Even Evangelism!... Paul encourages us to "Talk to them agreeably and with a flavor of wit." (Colossians 4:6)
And we all know that "A cheerful heart is good medicine." Proverbs 17:22

"We do laugh because of humor and jokes, but we laugh mostly because of love and affection. We laugh to share meaning and understanding; to make ourselves feel better; to reaffirm relationships, and to make new ones. Laugh at Yourself....laugh at crazy situations, but Never, Never Laugh AT other People, only WITH them.

So...How do we keep our Sense of Humor in the Pandemic?

1. Remember, that EVERY DAY a Gift



is



....and that you get
what you give!

Continued...page 7

Your United Methodist Women Conference Team Presents:

A Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat

“HOLY HUMOR”

Saturday, March 20 10:00 am to 3:00 (Arizona Time)

Cost: \$10.00



Led by Pastor Ann Lyter
(a Holy Humor specialist)

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON MONDAY MARCH 15

You may register now at link below:

[2021 UMW Retreat - Holy Humor - Desert Southwest Conference \(dscumc.org\)](https://dscumc.org)

**We want you to send us pictures of your feet
in funny slippers ahead of time.**

**(The ones you got for Christmas)
Any slippers will do. Be creative.
Funny or Silly Socks are OK too!**



Take a picture of your feet on your phone and send to the email below:
jones.sensei@gmail.com

Christine Jones will compile a video of our silly feet.

**For Questions about the retreat call : Kathy Schock – (480)695-3712
Cyndi Heinecke REGISTRAR- (928)970-0864**

Virtual Mission u Studies 2021: Mission u Curricula

Janette Gann,
Mission u Dean

Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by engaging in transformative educational experiences at **Mission u** events. These events are centered around Mission u curricula that are designed to motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

Local leaders are trained to lead one of the Mission u curricula through the organization's Mission u Training Events. Those leaders, in turn lead the curricula at their conference Mission u events and in their local and district groups.

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES:



2021 Youth Mission Study

Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence

by Jay Godfrey

Book: \$10 unitedmethodistwomen.org/resources

This mission study is written for those interested in working alongside youth on issues of violence. Throughout this study, the goal is to take time to have deeper conversations about how we define violence, what the root causes of violence are, and ultimately, how God is calling us to respond. At the same time, the study seeks to guide young people to develop their capacity as peacemakers as an expression of their faith.

JUNE 25-26, 2021

Study Leader: Rachel Moser

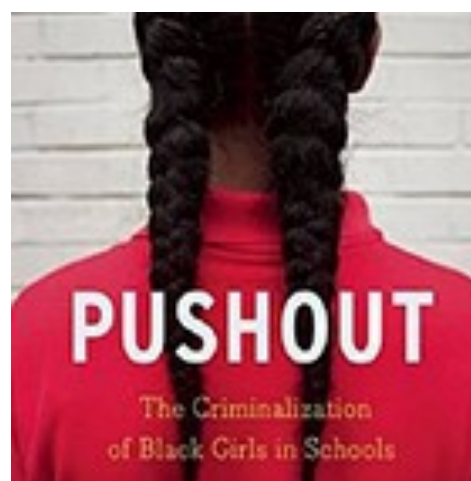
2021 Issue Mission Study

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

By Monique W. Morris

Book: available online or in libraries

Despite increased attention to the mass and over-incarceration of black men, the plight of criminalized black women and girls is overlooked, underreported and under analyzed. Monique W. Morris' *Pushout* shows how even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities and beyond, and challenges the rest of us to do the same.



JULY 23-24, 2021 Virtual

Study Leader: Billie Fidlin

Continued...page 9

President's Message

Karen Dallatore

Continued from...page 4



2. Remember that our "Leaders" are Just people, sometimes Foolish...
so keep praying for them.



When you filled your Virtual time capsule on Day Three did you remember to include toilet paper?

Don't forget...
our Pastors need
our prayers, too.



Continued...page 11

Social Action Update

Rhonda Glaze

Continued from...page 3

action planning webinar from The Women's March re: political lobbying to end mass incarcerations and workforce rights and protections for women and youth. One of the topics was how do we help women who have been released from prison back into the workforce? The meeting was recorded and took place on Feb. 9th. I have attended Faith Talks – Building Sustainability among other climate and racial justice webinars.

I have lead and hosted a chapter meeting with Climate Reality Las Vegas Chapter. I would like to invite all UMW members in the Las Vegas area to attend the next meeting on March 8, 2021. My co-chair will send me the link which I will forward to my unit and other north district Las Vegas units. For those who are in Arizona, there are chapters in the Baja and Phoenix areas. For more information, contact Rhonda Glaze at mamacat42.rg@gmail.com

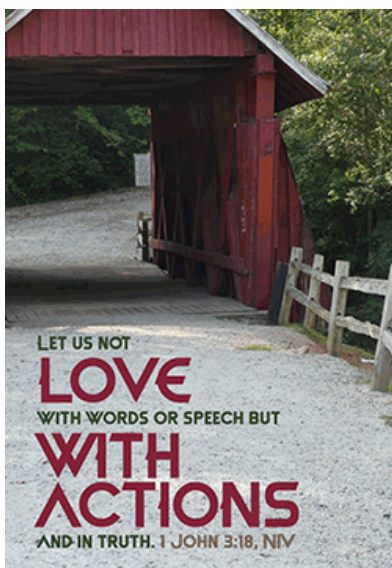
On January 9 of this year, I participated in the virtual Mission u conference and Leadership Development meeting. The theme was "Finding Peace In An Anxious World" based on the book of the same name. The meeting was very uplifting and rewarding.

I am in the process of sending out new social action packets to all the north district units in Nevada and Arizona. My objective is to re-engage our other units in social action involvement. The ideas I am planning this year are doing a Zoom writing party to contact elected officials about certain bills to pass and to lobby for various policies such as reforming the justice system; workforce protection for women, especially those who have recently been released from prison; land and resource conservation; and other climate or racial justice concerns.

I will keep our district team posted on various programs and events that we can plan and participate in both virtually and (hopefully) in-person throughout the year.

I am reviving my church circle, Women of Spirit, to become engaged in our social action campaigns and to get ideas from the group for community engagement and programs for this year. I feel energized and hopeful. I hope all of you are feeling the same. 2021 will be our year!

"For Jehovah is listening to the poor ones. And he will indeed not despise his very own prisoners." - Psalm 69:33



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 community and to expand concepts of mission through participation of the global ministries of the church.

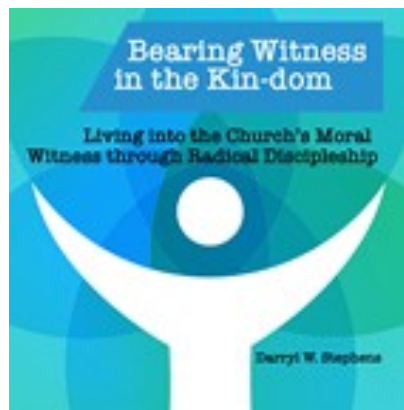


Continued...page 4

Virtual Mission u Studies 2021: Mission u Curricula

Janette Gann, Dean

Continued from...page 6



Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship

by Darryl W. Stephens

Book: \$10. Kindle: \$6. UMW.org/resources

The purpose of this study is to help the church and its members discern our call and bear witness to the will of God for a more just world.

August 13-14, 2021

Study Leader: Dior Desormeau



Legacy Fund

Sustaining Phase, Building On Our Success

As a permanently invested endowment, The Legacy Endowment Fund will forever be a source of income for United Methodist Women. Providing the assurance that United Methodist Women can provide the life-affirming, compassionate care and support that heals, restores and empowers populations of women, children and youth in the years and decades to come.

In 2014, the Board of Directors launched The Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign, setting a goal in 2017 to raise \$60 million dollars. During the campaign's six-year history, communities of United Methodist Women across the globe, raised over \$34 million dollars, surpassing 56% of the \$60 million goal in December 2020! The Campaign phase ended in December 2020, yet there is still a lot of road ahead us to reach that ambitious and yet reachable goal.

With an additional \$25 million dollars to raise, fundraising and promotion must continue beyond 2020. This new fundraising space captured under the heading of a Sustaining Phase, Building on our Success, has begun in 2021. Th Sustaining Phase, builds on the accomplishments achieved during the campaign's six-year history, strengthening that momentum with a range of activities to generate an additional \$25 million. With additional gifts received in and beyond 2021, United Methodist women will have access to financial resources used to deepen and expand its mission to transform lives and ignite change in places near and far.

Voices from the Field

Carla Whitmire



Wesley Community & Health Centers staff, ready to vaccinate.
Photo Courtesy of Welsey Community & Health Centers

The quarterly *Voices from the Field* events feature leaders sharing their work and life stories, daily challenges, hopes and dreams. This conversation series highlights United Methodist Women initiatives supported by Mission Giving, initiatives that significantly improve the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

On Thursday, March 9, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, meet Wesley Community & Health Centers, Phoenix, Arizona and The Bethlehem Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee to hear about the ways these two National Mission Institutions have responded to their communities' needs and addressed the COVID-19 crisis this past year. A Q&A session will follow the presentations.

Register [here](#).

Don't miss the opportunity to join the *Voices from the Field* virtual event on March 9 to find out more about the national work of United Methodist Women. Learn from people who are transforming their communities and how you, through Mission Giving, make a difference.

If the registration link does not work for you, please copy and paste this text into your browser window:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-CqqispEtyuybVWXB4PMmFEKP8KI3zbd>

Please save the email confirmation you will receive after registration; the message will contain your personal link to the event and information about joining by phone, tablet or computer.

We look forward to seeing you on March 9!

I thought I had Covid because I couldn't breathe. Then I **unbuttoned my pants** and it was all good.



4. Remember to Give Thanks always to God who gives you each breath (laughing breath is good!).



6. Remember to give yourself a break, and be happy to laugh at yourself! ;-)

Continued from...page 7

3. Remember to send jokes, funny stories (especially your own foibles) to friends.

They need your humor too!!



5. Remember MUSIC!

Find a happy song you love and Dance and Sing all over the House!!!

Continued...page 112

Continued from...page 11

**Your mom
before
church**

**Your mom
when you
arrive at
church**



Your Turn

Look out the Window...or go outside.
Close your Eyes....Take a Deep Breath...
Think of a happy Song...start humming....
or singing..... How do you feel?
Go on your computer and in your search
engine type in "Christian Humor" and read
funnies until you are laughing.....pick one
or two, and call a friend! Share the Laugh-
ter! Then ask how things are going.
Write down your funniest or like me,
stu- pidest, moment in the Pandemic
I KNOW you have them! Ask a few friends
to read them out loud. ;-)
Pray for Leaders, Friends, Pastors, and
FamilyPray for renewed strength,
wisdom, and sense of humor! ;-)

Closing Prayer

"Heavenly
Father,
Thank you
for Humor:
the Love, Joy, and
Humanity that
fuels it;
and your Grace
that compels us to
share it.
Lead us Father,
even in the Darkest
of moments....
to that place where we can
uplift and share joy and
healing laughter, together!"

AMEN

Brand New Morning Medley

Lord I Thank You for the Morning
Lord I Thank You for a Brand-New Dawning
Lord I Thank You for another Day to Sing your
Praise.

Lord I Thank You for Your Blessing,
Right Now my Hearts confessing,
Lord I Thank You for another day to sing Your
Praise.

One More Day, He's given me One More Day.
One More Day to Sing your Praise.

This is the Day that the Lord has made,
I will rejoice and be Glad in it!

Lord I Thank You for the Morning
Lord I Thank You for a Brand-New Dawning
Lord I Thank You for another Day to Sing your
Praise.