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2017 East Central District United Methodist Women District Team: Kelly Denaro, Evelyn Rose, Jean Gritman, Celeste Hicks, Phoebe Lustre, (Ladye Cox) Linda Gustafson, Mary Ann Murray, and Diane Abresky



2018 East Central District United Methodist Women Executive Team

Janet Blume, Education & Interpretation; Evelyn Rose, COM; Kelly Denaro, Secretary of Program Resources; Ann Kirkendall, VP; Mary Ann Murray, Treasurer; Melba Swagler, President; Diane Abresky, Secretary; Phoebe Lustre, Membership and Pam Anders, Social Action

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS SO YOU DON'T MISS THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

January 27, 2018...UMW Local Officer Training (FUMC Winter Garden)

March 17, 2018...Spring Day Apart (Grace UMC, Lake Mary)

July 12-15, 2018...Mission u (Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach)

August 2018...Mission Studies Sampler (TBA)

October 20, 2018...District Annual Meeting (FUMC Oviedo)

## Unique, Country, Made with Love



All of the above, as well as colorful, fantastic, creative and more could be used to describe the **ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR**, sponsored by United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church, Clermont that was held Saturday, November 11th. A steady stream of shoppers filtered through the shoppees, browsing and buying in preparation for Thanksgiving & Christmas (wreaths, home accessories, whole decorated tree) in the Holiday Shoppe and for personal interest in other shoppees. See Karen and Linda getting in one last peek of some fine jewelry bargains after helping to set up the Unique Boutique Shoppe which also included some high-end handbags such as Vera Bradley. They went fast!

There was a commotion in the Country Store over the wide variety of items as well as many shelves filled with homemade jams, salsa, apple compote, lemon curd and more. Martha and Sherry answer questions their customers ask about their wares.

We were pleased that Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Bill & Janet Blume) could stop by to visit with the children who came with their parents! A table was provided for those children to write a letter to Santa. NEW this year was the addition of the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) North Pole where the children could shop at bargain basement prices for their family and have their purchases gift-wrapped. Thank you to Jennifer Royston, President of MOPS, for making the "North Pole" possible and donating their proceeds to United Methodist Women missions.



The "Made with Love" Shoppe was full of homemade items: paintings, wood-working creations, and sewn creations such as aprons, table runners, and quilts. Priscilla wore a Christmas apron for sale and co-chair Jan Becherer was multi-tasking because she also helped set up this shop with co-chair Patti Hackenberg. These three women were responsible for designing, cutting, sewing and quilting the Opportunity Drawing Quilt (see Sept. Trumpet Sound.) One more Shoppe, "Opportunity Drawing" allowed shoppers to buy tickets and have the opportunity to win home items (paintings, kitchen appliances, guitar, etc.)



There were months of planning, seeking donations, creating and days of transforming the Social Hall into a Holiday Wonderland. The fellowship of over 60 volunteers, men and women, resulted in making new friends as all worked together for mission work, locally and globally. The local charitable groups will be recipients of proceeds to serve children, youth, women and seniors in need. It is with thankful hearts to God for His patience and guidance in seeing us through!



## Newborn Stockings Delivered Full of Love

On November 28, 2017, seventy-five red fleece stockings with white cuffs, white knitted caps with red pompoms, and poem written by former United Methodist Women member, Ruth Grove, were completed. This project was originally started in Clermont for babies born at the local hospital in Dec. 2005 by Oreta Haines. After a break for several years it was restarted by Daughters of Lydia Circle in 2013 with the request for sixty. There are members from all circles participating in this project. Each year production has been increased since the population of South Lake Co. has been growing at 11% a year. Our project will continue as long as God provides the women willing to cut out, sew, knit &/or assemble the finished stockings. Cost of supplies and materials are covered through our budget in mission. We started the project in May cutting out the stockings and trim and assembled packages with directions for volunteers to sew at home and return in August. There were about eight women at the initial cutting and assembly session. Over twelve women were involved with sewing stockings and another attached the laminated poem to the knitted cap with a green bow. One faithful woman knitted all seventy-five of the caps. Another helped measure and cut green ribbon. She had surgery on two fingers and had difficulty using scissors to cut the fleece. Two other members typed, printed and laminated the poem. The project was started so that each newborn could be placed in the stocking, with the cap on his or her head. Then the child is presented to the new parents before leaving the hospital. The stockings are a tangible way of showing God's Love through the prayers and handwork of the members of our United Methodist Women. This year most work sessions started with prayer and in at least two meetings prayers were lifted up to bless the babies, families and hospital staff touched by the stockings.

One blessing occurred when a young woman told us she will have her second daughter December 19th and will look forward to seeing "the baby in the stocking." Four years ago, she delivered her first daughter in December, received the stocking and cap and appreciates the tradition. We were also able to see her baby, Kennedy, in her red stocking and cap with her parents for their photo. What a wonderful tradition for the local community!



### BE JUST BE GREEN CHALLENGE



The United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church of Oviedo won the challenge made by the East Central District to incorporate all of the thirteen principles of the "Be Just Be Green." A big THANK YOU to Susan Juge, Chair of the Koinonia Circle, for her time and effort in researching and composing this report. The United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church of Oviedo was the only unit that addressed all thirteen principles. Susan's report is being archived in the District records as a prime example of how these principles can be incorporated for future challenges. Wonderful job, Susan!!!

On November 14th, eighty-four women gathered to enjoy dinner with each other at the First United Methodist Church of Oviedo United Methodist Women's Night of Fellowship entitled "Sowing Seeds of Kindness." A business meeting was conducted after dinner as a final vote was taken for the 2018 Budget, the presentation of the 2018 Missions and the installation of the 2018 Officers by the evening's guest, Pastor Laura Alexander Elliott, the new Executive Director of Soaring Unlimited Haiti, one of the Unit's missions. Co-President Denise Clonts welcomed guests to the United Methodist Women's meeting. Congratulations to Liz and Larry Whitley for being recognized as recipients of the Special Mission Recognition Award!!!



The First United Methodist Church of Oviedo United Methodist Women's Annual Breakfast with Santa was held on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> with approximately 425 in attendance. Everyone enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast while listening to carolers, followed by their participation in the morning's holiday activities! This year's attendance and profits increased by 66%. All proceeds will be evenly distributed among the following local missions: Lawton Elementary Backpack Program, Restoration Ministries for Women, Seminole County Public Schools - Families in Need and the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.



## Lavender and Lace Tea

**Grace United Methodist Women, Lake Mary**, hosted a Lavender and Lace Tea fundraiser for sixty-five women and four men on September 30th. The guests enjoyed a beautiful, vintage wedding gowns show, a 50-50 drawing and a Silent Auction during the afternoon. The event raised funds for Global and National Missions and the local unit's missions: The Sharing Center, The Oasis, the Seniors Intervention Group and Lake Mary Elementary School (Families in Need.)



### Bi-annual Local United Methodist Women Leadership Training for Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Secretaries of Program Resources Sponsored by the East Central District Leadership Team

United Methodist Women Presidents - don't miss out on this --- we invite and encourage you to bring the members of your Leadership Teams to this training event. Come to meet the new District Leadership Team as well as learn more about your teams' roles as officers. There will also be learning about program resources, the Reading Program, Social Justice and Outreach. Come for fun, fellowship; meet and learn!

WHEN: Saturday, January 27th

TIME: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

WHERE: First United Methodist Church of Winter Garden – 125 N Lakeview Avenue, Winter Garden, FL

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 20th

RSVP: Email Linda at [lindag65@cfl.rr.com](mailto:lindag65@cfl.rr.com) with number attending and their roles.

If child care is needed, please register with number of children by January 20th. This is offered only if requested. Child care is not available the day of the event without prior registration.

*Ladies ~ I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the East Central District United Methodist Women as Chair of Communications for the last few years. It was awesome to see how your units were using your time, talents and resources to support and serve women, children and youth around the world! This is my final issue as God has called me to move to North Florida to assist in the medical care of my father-in-law and so a new chapter in my life has begun. Lisa Oelschlager is your new "communications girl" and I am so excited for you to see all of the talents she will be bringing to the team.*

*Thank you for this amazing opportunity to serve God and this district!*

*Blessings,*

*Suzy Nagy*

**EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LEADERSHIP TEAM 2018 - 2019****President**

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