



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Trinity Women



Women Offering Belongingness

Performance by the students of Miracles in Motion

Director: Kim Moncrief

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

10:15 AM - Trinity Hall

Board Meeting 9:00 AM - Mastin Room

Miracles in Motion was created in 2007 to provide quality dance instruction to people with special needs while promoting awareness in the community through the joy of dancing! Come and enjoy the dancers sharing their talents with us. Please visit their website, miraclesinmotionva.org, or follow them on Facebook.

Circle 1

We will meet on Tuesday, February 19, at 9:30 am in the Mastin Room. In addition to our regular business we will be assembling 30 health kits and 30 school kits for UMCOR to aid in their disaster relief efforts.

Circle 5

We will meet on Tuesday, February 19, for the ABCs of Downsizing.

Circle 6

We will meet on Tuesday, February 5, in room 319 for a brief business meeting followed by a program from Rebecca Blackwell of the Sophie House. Please bring paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins) or canned goods for their food pantry.

Circle 7

We assembled 10 school kits during our January meeting. We also discussed the work of the Interfaith Center for Public Policy which was the guest speaker at the January Unit meeting.

Circle 10

We will meet on Thursday, February 7, at 7 pm in the Mastin Room. Nancy Drumheller will give a presentation on recycling.

From the President

You can't think of February without thinking of hearts and possibly chocolate. It's the month of Valentine's Day, the holiday of love and romance. Also in February, we are reminded to take care of our hearts (heart disease is the number one cause of death for women) which probably means we should show restraint in the candy aisle. On February 12, we can warm our hearts by watching the dancers from Miracles in Motion perform. The group was formed by a mom and dance instructor who wanted her son with special needs to experience the joy that comes from dance.

Let them praise him with dancing and make music to him with timbral and harp for the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

- Psalm 149:3-4

Now that we are one month into 2019, I'm hoping everyone is thinking about making their yearly donation to the UMW. These gifts help us fund our events and cover operating costs. We have also pledged to give \$2,500 to the Richmond District UMW which in turn has made a pledge of \$48,000 to go on to UMW projects at the national and international level. To see the work being done by our organization, look at the national website (unitedmethodistwomen.org). It's exciting to think that we too are part of the amazing work being done on behalf of women, youth and children in need and advocacy for justice for all. I realize it seems that we talk about giving money all the time! I apologize for that, but we got a little behind on our donations in 2018 and needed to make a year end push for funds. Now it is a new year, and I encourage everyone to think about making a gift this month. That way we can check it off the list and start focusing on how to connect to women who want and need to be a part of our supportive and mission focused ministry.

- Stacy Campbell, Trinity UMW President

The Hermitage

Start the New Year with cleaning out your closets and donating unused items to Hidden Treasures at Hermitage-Richmond. We take kitchen, household items, and furniture in good condition. Sale dates continue to be on the fourth Friday of each month from 10:30am-2:00pm. Questions: Nancy Miller, 740-3772

Treasurer's Tidbits

During 2018, Trinity's UMW donated over \$10,500 to many worthy organizations



which impacted the lives of many women, youth, and children. That is AWESOME!!! This total includes funds contributed through the Call to Prayer and Harvest Day services, as well as donations made by individual circles and by the Trinity UMW unit as a whole. Some circles have already started to submit their 2019 pledges, so I am confident that our UMW will be able to impact the lives of many people again this year. The UMW Board approved the 2019 budget during its January meeting, and our pledge goal for 2019 is \$5,136. Please see the full budget for all the details.

- Shari Adams, Trinity UMW Treasurer

Gift in Memory

A gift to the UMW National Mission Institutions was given in memory of Dr. Rick West, father of Leila Denton and widower of Alyce West.



His family will receive a card notifying them of this donation his memory.

Thank You Note

We want to thank all of the UMW for the gift in honor of our Dad. It is so wonderful to know we are surrounded by such great support and love. A gift for the mission work of the United Methodist Church is a perfect tribute.

Blessings,
Leila (on behalf of the West family)

UMCOR

It is exciting to see **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief) kits coming in for this year's Virginia Annual Conference collection. Thank you for your continued support of **UMCOR** and the important work they do in crisis situations. If your circle has not already planned on supporting this important project, and would like to do so, it is not too late. Current supply lists and instructions are available online at www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies.

UMCOR has made several changes to their supply lists in the last year, so be sure you have this updated information. All kits are carefully planned by **UMCOR** to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. So, it is important to remember that kits should only contain specifically requested items. If you have any questions or need assistance in getting the updated supply lists contact Debbie Schmitt at Barron.Schmitt1@verizon.net. Completed kits will be collected in the missions closet from now until just before Annual Conference meets in June. (Postage and toothpaste monies **should not** be included in kits. These monies should be marked UMCOR kits and submitted to our UMW Treasurer, Shari Adams, through her mail slot located in the church office).



“May we go on trusting, loving, serving, and understanding...”: African American Women in the Methodist Church

As many of you know, February is Black History Month. It was created to highlight and celebrate the African American community. It is also a time of reflection. I want to take this time to reflect on the long history of African American women in the Methodist church. These women are integral to the history of Methodism, our story as the United Methodist Church, and the development of the United Methodist Women.

To have a full understanding of this topic, I think it is important to start in the eighteenth century. At the conclusion of the Revolution in 1783, there were very few practitioners of Methodism in the United States. Now that the colonies were free of England and the Church of England, there is tremendous growth in various Protestant branches in the new nation. Methodism caught on quickly, becoming perhaps the largest Protestant branch by the onset of the Civil War.

There are two major reasons that the number of Methodist practitioners increase so rapidly. First, in keeping with John Wesley's teachings, any man could devote his life to studying the Bible and delivering sermons to a congregation. This flexibility was particularly helpful in rural communities, where they didn't have a central church. Second, the Methodist believed that all men were equal in the eyes of God. They were welcoming to the enslaved communities. Thus, the enslaved started to attend Methodist worship and form their own congregations.

It would be impossible for me to give the complete history of African American Methodists, so the following is a brief framework. The white and black Methodist community coexisted into the nineteenth century. However, in the years leading up to the Civil War, the Methodist church became “more American, than Methodist.” In 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South separated from the Methodist Episcopal

Church over the issue of slavery. In the years that followed, many African American Methodist Episcopal Churches were formed. This was a type of "separate, but equal." This division in many ways has persisted. It was the work of the Women's Home Missionary Society that began to mend the divide. The women of the WHMS sought to help the African American community, and it became a chance for white and black women to collaborate. We continue today in mending our relationship.

Now that we have our framework, I want to discuss just a couple women this month. I will include more of these notable women in future articles.

There are a few examples of African American women speaking out about their Methodist faith in the early nineteenth century. The best example is Isabella Bomefree, better known as Sojourner Truth.



She was born into slavery, but she emancipated herself in 1826. She went on to co-found Kingston Methodist Church, and she was an ardent supporter of women's and black's rights. She spoke publicly on numerous occasions about her experiences as a slave and her faith. Her best known speech was

later called "Ain't I a Woman?" (Sojourner did not title this speech. The newspaper referred to it as such, in an attempt to be provocative.) This speech was delivered at a Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio. I think these lines best illustrate her faith and her interest in women's rights, stating "I can't read, but I can hear. I have heard the Bible and have learned that Eve caused man to sin. Well, if woman upset the world, do give her a chance to set it right side up again. The Lady has spoken about Jesus, how he never spurned woman from him, and she was right. ...And how came Jesus into the World? Through God who created him and the woman who bore him. Man, where was your part?" From these

words, it is clear that she was a force. A force with an enduring faith in her Lord.

Now as we look to the twentieth century, we remember from last month that it took all women a long time to gain a place among the clergy and laymen of the church. It took African American women even longer. This included participating in nationally recognized Methodist women's organizations. In 1904, Minnie Jackson Goins of Kansas became the first African-American woman to be an ordained elder in the United Brethren Church. The first female elder was ordained in 1889. In 1906, Martha Drummer and Anna Hall were among the first African American missionaries sent abroad by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. This was thirty-seven years after Dr. Clara Swain and Isabella Thoburn were sent to India.



Minnie Jackson - Goins

Among the best known African American woman to advocate for women's rights and women's religious organizations is Mary McLeod Bethune. She is an inspiring woman who led a remarkable life. She was born in 1875 in Mayesville, South Carolina. Her parents were former slaves. At a young age, she realized the importance of education as a means to better her life. She attended Trinity Mission School, a one-room school house, in Mayesville. With the encouragement of her teacher, she then attended Scotia Seminary (now Barber-Scotia College) with a scholarship.



Additionally, she attended Dwight L. Moody's Institute for Home and Foreign Mission in Chicago in hopes of becoming a missionary in Africa. Though she never became a missionary, she used her

education to teach the next generation. She was determined to start a school for girls, and in 1904 she founded a small school in Daytona, Florida. In 1931, the Methodist Church helped with the merger of her school with the boys' Cookman Institute to form the Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune was the first President, serving from 1931 to 1942. The Bethune-Cookman University is still in operation today. Her dedication to education was known nationally, and she didn't go unnoticed by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. In fact, Bethune sat on Roosevelt's Black Cabinet during his time in the



White House. She advised him on the needs and plights of minority citizen, and she advocated for the work of the Women's Home Missionary Society. She was an extremely connected woman, who served the African-American community.

It is most important to remember that she regarded her service as part of God's plan for her. She was devout and was involved in many Church organizations. By the 1920s, the Methodists were looking to unite their church, but by 1939 it was clear that the jurisdiction couldn't come to an agreement. The Methodist women, however, agreed to unite in 1940. There would now be a Central Jurisdiction Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild. This meant that black women would take their place in a single, united Methodist Women's Movement. (This is a bit of foreshadowing for the unification of all these groups of the Methodist women's movement to form the UMW.) At the first meeting of Central Jurisdiction Women, Mary McLeod Bethune was asked to speak. She states that, "Women have blazed the way so that doors of opportunity and fellowship might be open to all. ...As Christian women you want to stand with your feet pointing the way to a better world. These are your moments now, your vision extends-your

creative availability is getting into action. ...May we go on trusting, loving, serving, understanding, putting arms around those who need us; Go out. They are waiting for you-for me. You have been filled here to go out in God's name to minister unto those who need you. God give unto you the knowledge of your responsibility that you may go out to make this beautiful world all God would have it be!"

To continue in this spirit of unity, I will write on the unification of the United Methodist Women in March. As you all remember, the first meeting of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was in March, so next month marks the 150th Anniversary of the UMW!

- Emily Campbell

Images:

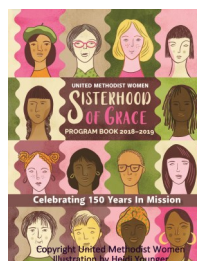
1. Sojourner Truth around 1870
2. Minnie Jackson Goins
3. Mary McLeod Bethune with her school girls
4. Mary McLeod Bethune, photographed by Carl Van Vechten, 1949

African Americans and the Methodist Church is a major topic with many key dates and significant figures. There is a great deal of research, books, articles available. These two books appear to give a broad overview of the subject for those looking for additional reading:

Gordan J. Melton, *A Will to Choose: The Origins of African American Methodism* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2007).

Jean Miller Schmidt, *Grace Sufficient: A History of Women in American Methodism, 1760-1939* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999).

Trinity United Methodist Women



For more information about the UMW, contact UMW President Stacy Campbell at 762-8922 or stacybcampbell@gmail.com.

You can also visit:

www.trinityumc.net/umw