

MISSION LINK ON

United Methodist Women, California Nevada Conference, El Camino Real District, Vol. 31, No. 1, February 2020

Connect & Learn
February 1, 2020
St. Paul's UMC
San Jose



of Mary anointing Jesus' feet. When Judas criticized Mary for wasting the expensive ointment, he may not have been the only critic. The other men may have thought, "Yeah, what Judas said." Mary's "light" disrupted the evening for those men, but Jesus understood her intent.

We can take on the mantle of Mary. We can model ourselves after her and after the wonderful women we have

BY BONNIE HOME, ALMADEN HILLS UMW

The sun shone brightly through St. Paul's sanctuary windows as United Methodist Women from sixteen churches gathered for some annual leadership training. District President K Stone cleverly called the roll according to how many miles the women had to travel that morning. The Merced UMW (at 115 miles) and the Marina UMW (at 61 miles) were in first and second place for having come from farthest away.

Keynote speaker for the morning was Rev. Jennifer Goto. She asked Spiritual Growth coordinator Sandra Nesheim to read the story



Above: Keynote speaker Pastor Jennifer Goto offered ways in which we as United Methodist Women could let our lights shine.



known who have been our leaders in the past. We can break out of the roles that we have led for many years, go beyond our job description, and try something new.

There are consequences to letting your light shine. The world may critique you and doubt you, but Jesus will be pleased. United Methodist Women shine

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Above: Secretary of Program Resources Carolyn Bircher encouraged attendees to read the books that are part of this year's Reading Program



We remember Merle Boxill

We are saddened to report that Merle Boxill passed away on December 19, 2019.

A dynamic United Methodist Woman, Merle served as guest speaker, retreat leader, Mission Event study leader, and past president of CA/NV Conference UMW. She was also a lifelong educator, administrator, and mentor of new teachers.

Born in Castries, Saint Lucia, she completed her undergraduate studies in Chemistry and Zoology at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. She married Rev. Rae Boxill, a childhood friend, at the University Chapel in Jamaica. They moved around the Caribbean with his church assignments. They later moved to the United States, where they both completed Master of Education degrees at Stanford University.

Merle served for over 50 years in many roles in high schools, including science teacher, administrator, and Principal at Evergreen Valley High School in San Jose. At the time of her second retirement, she was Co-Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Escuela Popular Accelerated Family Learning School, a K-12 charter in San Jose.

The memorial service for Merle Boxill was held Saturday, February 1, 2020, at Los Altos United Methodist Church, Los Altos, CA. Merle's obituary may be found online <usobit.com/obituaries-2020/01/merle-theresa-serville-boxill-december-19-2019/>. Please hold Merle's family in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE **ALL ARE INVITED** *Saturday, April 25, 2020*

CA-NV CONFERENCE UMW
SOCIAL ACTION EVENT

Interrupting the Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline, Part 2

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jessica Nowlan, Executive Director
Young Women's Freedom Center

Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
6929 Franklin Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95823
Saturday, April 25: Registration 9:15am
Program 10:00am - 3:45pm

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.

MISSION LINK is published quarterly. Each issue is also available on the El Camino Real District UMW website <elcaminorealumw.org>. Please send address changes to El Camino Real District UMW President K Stone.

Please direct items for publication in Mission Link to Wanda Garrett, Communications Coordinator. If you provide photos of recognizable individuals, please be sure you have obtained permission from those individuals to publish their picture. The next issue will be published in May, 2020. The deadline for articles or photos to be submitted for this issue is Monday, April 20, 2020.

MISSION LINK

is published quarterly by
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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**
<elcaminorealumw.org>
Wesley United Methodist Church
Attn: K Stone, President
El Camino Real District UMW
566 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112

2020 DISTRICT TEAM

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VICE PRESIDENT: LYNN HERMOSO
TREASURER: DEBBIE OW
SECRETARY: GINNY JOHNSON
SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES:
CAROLYN BIRCHER
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SOCIAL ACTION: KATHERINE KIM
EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:
LAUREN MICHELLE STEVENS

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

CHAIRPERSON: BETTY SPENCER DICKEY
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Kat Teraji
Esther Aguirre-Ribeiro
(open)

To contact any District Team member, send an email to <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>. Please include on the subject line, the Team member to whom your message should be directed.

To subscribe to the District UMW "Quick News" emails, please send a request to Wanda Garrett at <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>.

Notes from the President

Happy New Year!



Typically this phrase represents new beginnings and optimism. There are those that predict 2020 will be a year of renewal, a year of change. At the same time, there are those who have some uncertainty of the changes ahead.

In all times we need each other, but this is especially true when there seems to be change and even division everywhere.

Even more so, we know whatever we're doing, wherever we go, whatever we face, we know Jesus is just ahead of us, leading, guiding & empowering us to move forward, to "Widen our Circle". Together, let us be part of this journey

Let us set a goal for 2020, to band together, find our passion in bold actions for missions, meet new sisters and asking them to join our activities. Let us enjoy all opportunities that will enable us to become all we can possibly be.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

We Need Each Other ~ we are United Methodist Women!

K Stone, President
El Camino Real District UMW

let your light shine bright cont'd from p.1

their light on justice, wage inequality, criminal justice. They are especially aware when children are not doing well, and step up to change that.

Pastor Jennifer has noticed what a difference daily prayer makes in her own life, even if the prayer time is only three minutes long. In the midst of prayer she remembers again to whom she belongs. She suggested this meditation to bring light to your life. –

- 1) Find a quiet place in your heart.
- 2) Envision a small point of light there that glows

and grows and shines more and more widely.

- 3) Invite Jesus or invite the Holy Spirit to come into this glowing light.

Don't ever stop trying to make the world a better place. Jesus will be pleased.



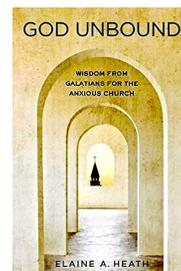
District UMW Team members led workshops to learn more about roles and resources of United Methodist Women.
Top row left to right Carolyn Bircher, Kathy Kim, Betty Spencer Dickey, Carolyn Lamcke, Lynn Hermoso, Debbie Ow.
Front row: Kat Teraji, Sandra Nesheim, Esther Aguirre-Ribeiro, Wanda Garrett, Ginny Johnson, K Stone.
Not pictured: Lauren Michelle Stevens.

Program Resources

CAROLYN BIRCHER, SECRETARY OF
PROGRAM RESOURCES

Book Review

BY CAROLYN BIRCHER



GOD UNBOUND: WISDOM FROM GALATIANS FOR THE ANXIOUS CHURCH

By Elaine A. Heath

This is an excellent study, by Elaine A. Heath, based on Paul's letter to the Galatians. Paul was writing to the Galatian churches about issues and growing pains they were experiencing. Guess what? Our churches still have issues. Elaine Heath relates our modern issues to the advice that Paul gave and urges the church to boldly follow the Holy Spirit's leadership beyond buildings and programs, to join what Jesus is doing in the world. There are seven chapters (an introduction and a chapter for each chapter of Galatians). Each chapter ends with reflections and discussion questions. If you're looking for a study for your church group, I'd recommend this one. Or just read it on your own. It counts in the Spiritual Growth category for the Reading Program. This book is not available at public libraries, but can be purchased for under \$10 at most online bookstores, including The Upper Room Bookstore <<https://bookstore.upperroom.org>>.



But we are still in a Climate Emergency! So what is happening now?

According to a Moms Clean Air Force report(3), about 10 million people live and nearly 3 million kids attend school within a half mile of an active oil and gas site.

One example from Moms Clean Air Force(4): “Alexis has been exposed to benzene, a cancer causing chemical that is released into the environment by oil and gas activity. She lives near about 20 active oil and gas sites in Pennsylvania. Her mother did not know what was wrong when Alexis started to have uncontrollable nose bleeds, bruises, rashes and for a time was unable to walk. The toxicology report revealed the chemical cause. This isn’t happening to our children in the future, it’s happening now.”

50th Anniversary of Earth Day: *So What’s New?*

BY BETTY SPENCER DICKEY
WESTERN JURISDICTION UMW CLIMATE GUIDE

It may be hard to imagine that before 1970, a factory could spew black clouds of toxic smoke into the air or dump tons of toxic waste into a nearby stream, and that was perfectly legal. How was that possible? Because there was no EPA, no Clean Air Act, no Clean Water Act—no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment. Rivers and lakes were so polluted they caught fire!

50 years ago, on April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day(1) marked the official beginning of the environmental movement. According(2) to then-Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) (1916-2005), “The objective was to get a nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment so large that it would shake the political establishment out of its lethargy.”

The former Governor of Wisconsin, Nelson organized a nationwide “teach-in” about environmental issues to take place on April 22, 1970. More than 2,000 colleges and universities, 10,000 public schools, and 20 million citizens participated, nearly 10 percent of the U.S. population at that time.

The Obama administration established national safeguards(5) on climate and air pollution from 36,000 new and recently modified oil and gas wells across the country. These standards would prevent an estimated 300,000 tons of polluting methane, 150,000 tons of smog forming chemicals and 1,900 tons of benzene and other pollutants from getting into our air in 2020 alone.

Unfortunately, the administration continues trying to block the Clean Car Standards(6). Those standards are the best tool to reduce climate pollution from transportation, the biggest source of greenhouse gases in the U.S.

For the last three years, the Environmental Defense Fund has been focused on suing the Trump administration(7) for trying to dismantle those protections including the Clean Power Plan that was rolled back this past summer.

If you go to websites such as

- Environmental Defense Fund <<https://www.edf.org/>>
- National Resources Defense Council <<https://www.nrdc.org/>>
- 350.org <<https://350.org/>>

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- Sierra Club < <https://www.sierraclub.org>> and many others, you can get a better idea of the good work these organizations are doing for us. The environmental groups have won about 80% of their cases against the EPA(8).

All these groups need our support -- to sign a petition, donate to the organizations, tell people about the problems that fossil fuels cause.

References:

1. <<https://www.earthday.org/>>
2. <<https://www.politico.com/story/2008/04/first-earth-day-celebrated-april-22-1970-009756>>
3. <<https://www.momscleanairforce.org/resources/face-to-face-with-oil-and-gas/>>
4. <https://www.momscleanairforce.org/fracking-pa-faith/>

- Join with others at your church or UMW for an Earth Day program in March, April or May. Screen a movie or video with an environmental theme. Check the Interfaith Power & Light website, <<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>>.
- Start a Green Study with your book club or small group.
- Involve the youth and challenge them to write stories about how they feel about the climate crisis, and how it will affect their lives in the future. Share with their group and or the church.
- Petition or boycott the big stores to reduce use of plastic in their packaging and shipping.
- Find an alternative to buy your products from websites such as Grove < <https://www.grove.co/>>.
- Choose to not buy plastic containers from stores,

50th Anniversary of Earth Day: So What's New?

5. <<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-record/climate>>
6. <<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/09/17/epa-california-obama-waiver-1500336>>
7. <<https://www.edf.org/climate/trumps-clean-power-plan-rollback-puts-you-danger>>
8. <<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/vijay-limaye/fringe-science-epa-threatens-our-progress-clean-air>>

What can we do to help?

How can we participate?

Ask yourself, “Am I really doing all I can? Educate yourself and your family, we don’t have much time.

- Join UMW in the Just Energy4All <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/just-energy-for-all>> campaign to curb methane and other fossil fuel emissions.
- Go to UMW online at <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice>> and sign the Chevron letter. We are in the process of putting together new petitions for auto companies who are not staying with the Clean Car Standards.

- because most end up in the ocean or landfills.
- Wash and reuse the containers you already have and carry them in your car for leftovers.
- Shop locally.
- Join with a group organized to participate in confronting polluters.
- Subscribe online to some of the organizations I mentioned above.
- Attend the Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial <<https://www.wjumw.com/>>, April 17-19, 2020, at Tempe, AZ. and get ideas from great Environmental speaker, Katherine Hayhoe. If you can’t make it, look her up on YouTube for her other climate videos.
- Read any of Sharon Delgado’s books.
- Buy an electric car!



Butterfly Project: Report Highlights



Above: Marikina UMC-Manila provided local children in the Balubad Extension class with red and yellow gift bags -- reusable grocery bags which contained Christmas goodies for the families (spaghetti noodles, sauces, hotdog, corned beef etc); apples, snacks and hygiene supplies for the kids

BY MAYEN VILLANUEVA, UMW SALINAS FIRST UMC

Highlighting our yearly UMW-sponsored mission trip to the Philippines, a photo-display of the Salinas First UMW's Butterfly Project was shown as the project's kick-off began last October 26, 2019 at our District UMW Annual Celebration in Good Samaritan UMC in Cupertino, CA.

The mission was held in four sites in the Philippines from late 2019/early 2020. This was a connectional and outreach mission which served a total of around 300 main target beneficiaries, the poor and at-risk children and mothers pre-selected by our Philippine-based church-partners. The mission sites were:

- Marikina UMC-Manila (held December 14, 2019)
- Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation, Inc. (KKFI)-Manila (held December 10)
- San Narciso UMC-Zambales province (held December 5).
- Another outreach mission was also conducted on January 4, 2020, in one of Marikina UMC's mission points.

How was the mission funded? The mission was mainly supported through cash donations from the Salinas FUMC congregation, our local unit of UMW and from friends and relatives. Other material donations and love gifts received were 20 Prayer Shawls from

the Prayer Shawl Ministry and over 100 pieces of stuffed animals/toys donated by the UMW members. You may recall an article about this Butterfly Project in the December 2019 issue of Mission Link.

Impact: The mission's impact to partner-churches and communities can be summed up as follows:

- Seeing God's presence in gift-giving to children and mothers and other under-privileged community members;
- Seeing God through the eyes of the children in the UMC Extension and mission points;
- Experiencing faith with the indigenous people's community in Mt. Moriah; the joy of serving God through this outreach mission;
- Strengthening and consolidating our relationship with our other United Methodist churches and United Methodist Women in the Philippines [See "Mission is Relationship" at <<https://umcmission.org>>]. The fruit of this relationship is the new level of relationships we built and nurtured though years of partnerships between our church partners within the ECR and the Philippines. Indeed, the relationships have allowed us to experience new and surprising expressions of God's grace by reaching out to more communities and allowing ourselves to be



welcomed and invited by other Methodist churches.

Indigenous women at Mt Moriah UMC received prayer shawls

Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach

CAROLYN LAMCKE

FILL OUT YOUR UMW 2019 CENSUS

The “Count Me In” program (UMW 2019 Census) has already started! It must be completed by March 30, 2020. All Local Units must fill the form in online. Usually Presidents of the Local Unit will fill the form in. However, it does not need to be the President, just someone from your Unit.

It is important for all Local Units of our District to submit their census information. The results are reflected in programs and resources that are being developed by the National UMW office. Note that this is not connected in any way with the census from the U.S. government!

It usually only takes five to ten minutes to fill in the form. If you send the form in late it won't be counted.

Here are the five easy steps:

1. Using your web browser, search for “United Methodist Women Census 2019”. Or go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2019.

2. You'll see the introduction to “United Methodist Women Census 2019” with the form below. I recommend printing it out, then filling it in. This gives you the flexibility to fill it in as you have time, or to ask others in your group to help with the answers.
3. When you start filling out the form use the Church's ZIP CODE. It will find your church. On the line with your church's name, click the button “Select.” Otherwise the form won't be sent or counted.
4. When you are done, click “Submit” at the bottom of the page. If it says there is a mistake made, it will be highlighted in red. Please fix the mistake and send it again.
5. If you did it correctly, you will get a “Thank You” note, which is great because it indicates your information went to the National UMW office.

If you need help, call me and I'll do it for you over the phone.

Treasurer

DEBBIE OW

WHAT I DID ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



Dr. Michael Eric Dyson
Photo/Nina Subin

On January 20 I was privileged to attend the 40th Annual Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon hosted by the African American Community Service Agency of the South Bay Area.

The program included presentations by many of the sponsors including the Knight Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank, Mayor Sam Liccardo, and many others. There were also several musical performers.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, a Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University. He has written several books including [I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) One of his most popular books is [Why I Love Black Women](#), which won an NAACP Image Award.

In addition to being an educator, Prof. Dyson is also an ordained preacher in the Baptist Church and is well known in the Baptist Community so he knows how to preach.

I had never heard of Prof. Dyson, but I will never forget him after hearing him speak. He was indeed in tune with his audience and had them on their feet many times. His message touched upon our current political situation and its impact on people of color, the strengths and weaknesses of President Obama, and also on the need for women of color to be valued as leaders in their families, in their communities and in this nation. (Does this sound like UMW?)

As I experienced this event, I felt a little uncomfortable. I was one of the few white faces in the crowd of 800. Is this how black people feel at my church, at my work?

I am glad I attended the event. Getting out of one's comfort zone can sometimes be an eye-opening experience. You should try it!

**EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT UMW
CALENDAR**

- MARCH 13-15** **Spiritual Retreat**
Mission Springs Retreat Ctr
Scotts Valley, CA
- APRIL 4** **District UMW Leadership
Team Meeting**
Almaden Hills UMC
San Jose, CA
- APRIL 17-19** **Western Jurisdiction UMW
Quadrennial Event**
- APRIL 25** **Calif/Nev Conference UMW
Social Action Event**
Sacramento Japanese UMC
- MAY 30** **ECR District UMW
Social Action Event**
Location tba
- JUNE 26-27** **Mission u 2-day event**
Oakhurst New Community
UMC, Oakhurst, CA
- JULY 18** **Mission u 1-day event**
Twin Towers UMC, Alameda
- AUGUST 7-9** **Mission u 3-day event**
Temple UMC, San Francisco
- AUGUST 1** **District UMW Leadership
Team Meeting**
Almaden Hills UMC
San Jose, CA
- SEPT. 19** **District UMW Leadership
Team Meeting**
Almaden Hills UMC
San Jose, CA

Wesley United Methodist Church
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El Camino Real District UMW
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San Jose, CA 95112

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United Methodist Women

February 2020

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newsletter with the
members of your
Local Unit*

El Camino Real District UMW website
<elcaminorealumw.org>



El Camino Real District UMW Spiritual Retreat

March 13 - 15

Mission Springs Retreat Center
Scotts Valley, CA

Choose Hope for God's World

Inspiring program by Rev. Charlotte Bear

"Gifts and Graces" talent show

Morning Matins

Wake up/Warm up

Nature walks

Connect with "old" and "new" friends



**Retreat Leader
Rev. Charlotte Bear**

Rev. Bear guides people to reconnect with the sacredness of God's earth, to have an impact through collective action and to build community resilience in response to a dramatically changing planet

**Register Online or Mail-in by March 4, 2020
Full and Partial Scholarships available**

Information, registration and scholarship forms inside and at the El Camino Real UMW District website <www.elcaminorealumw.org>

El Camino Real District UMW
MISSION SPRINGS SPIRITUAL RETREAT
REGISTRATION FORM

March 13-15, 2020

Mission Springs Retreat Center, Scotts Valley, CA

See News & Events at <www.elcaminorealumw.org>

El Camino Real District UMW
MISSION SPRINGS SPIRITUAL RETREAT
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
See News & Events at <www.elcaminorealumw.org>