

Jane Yaeger from Menominee, MI

Here are six months of newsletter articles I have done for our 150th year. The following is just the verbiage and not as they appeared nicely set up in the actual newsletter. I used much of the info and pictures from the UMW website and/or Response. I have tried to give a view of several different things UMW has done and been about in the last 150 years.

January:

United Methodist Women are eager to start the new year with our annual UMW Sunday on Jan. 27th. This year, 2019, marks the 150th year for mission work by our current United Methodist Women organization and our predecessors. We inherit the vision and toil of women's missionary societies of eight denominations since 1869 when 8 women met to form the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in Boston in response to a lack of women's health in India. In 1869, Mrs. William Butler and Mrs. Edwin Parker, wives of missionaries to India, were home on furlough. They spoke to a group of eight women in Boston. Mrs. Butler told about the desperate spiritual and physical needs of women in India. A male doctor could not treat women. Schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Single, trained and dedicated women were needed for medical and educational work. The women who were present called another meeting of women, wrote a constitution, and organized the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS). By November 1869, the newly formed organization raised funds and sent Isabella Thoburn, an educator, and Dr. Clara Swain, a doctor, to India. Ms. Thoburn began a school with six young girls in Lucknow. This school expanded to include Isabella Thoburn College, the first women's college in Asia. Dr. Swain began her medical work, resulting in the establishment of the first women's hospital in Asia. Both of these institutions are still serving the people of India. In 1875, Lizzie Hoffman was instrumental in forming the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church. After spending one night praying, she was convinced that the women of the church should be organized for special mission work. Sierra Leone, in Africa, was the first country to which missionaries were sent. Strong Woman's Home Missionary Societies were founded in 1880 (Methodist Episcopal Church) and 1890 (Methodist Episcopal Church, South) In 1879, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church was founded; and in 1884, the Woman's Missionary Society was organized in the Evangelical Association. These groups became powerful, independent women's organizations, sending hundreds of missionaries all over the world and supporting many projects.

The Ladies Aid Societies, which had existed for many years, were incorporated into the missionary societies in the 1940s. Through reorganization and denominational mergers, these various groups were brought together. In 1973, United Methodist Women became the women's mission organization of The United Methodist Church. Now 800,000 members strong, we still work to positively impact the lives of women, children and youth in this country and around the world. Our UMW booklet which has our annual budget, meetings and events for the year is available in the gathering area. All ladies are welcome to join us!

Feb.:

Celebrating our 150th year --- The first two women missionaries sent abroad by our United Methodist Women predecessors.

Dr. Clara A. Swain (*had a photo here of her*) was a physician and missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She has been called the "pioneer woman physician in India," and as well as the "first fully accredited woman physician ever sent out by any missionary society into any part of the Non-Christian world". Her call to service in India fell from a need to have a female physician provide quality medical care to high-caste women, that were religiously secluded to zenana. Supported by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Swain left the United States in 1869, for Bareilly, India, where she spent the next twenty-seven years of her life treating women and children from illnesses, while simultaneously working to evangelize natives.

Isabella Thoburn (*had a photo of her here*) was born in 1840 and attended local schools and the Wheeling Female Seminary in Wheeling, Virginia (now in West Virginia). In 1866, after she had taught for several years, Isabella was invited by her brother James Mills Thoburn, a Methodist Episcopal missionary in India, to assist him in his educational and missionary work in India. She delayed her departure until 1869, when the formation of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church enabled her to undertake missionary work under denominational affiliation and auspices. In India, Thoburn's work culminated in the founding of an important woman's college, Isabella Thoburn College in Lucknow, as well as a Methodist High School in Kanpur. These two educational establishments were among the first in colonial India, catering to the educational and religious needs of an emergent Anglo Indian population in Awadh. Thoburn returned to the United States for a period to study at Lucy Rider Meyer's Chicago Training School for City, Home, and Foreign Missions in Illinois. In 1887, Meyer appointed her as the first house mother and superintendent of the school's new Methodist Deaconess Home for training female deacons. She died in 1901 in Lucknow, India.

March:

United Methodist Women had our first meeting for 2019 in February. We are hoping to raise awareness during this the 150th year of our predecessor mission groups that became United Methodist Women. Our mission giving funds programs in 110 countries internationally and 92 nationally. I hope to highlight just a few during this year. The UMW website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) has lots of history and interesting items on it. Thanks for your support in our different activities through the year which also helps support the national and international programs of United Methodist Women.

The Susannah Wesley Home. (*had a picture of the home here*)

In 1899 the Women's Home Missionary Society, of what is now known as The United Methodist Church, sent missionary Ms. Ella Holbrook to Hawaii to reach out to Japanese

and Korean immigrant women working on the plantations of Waipahu, Oahu. Her goal was to provide English and sewing classes to the women. Within a few short years, a succession of female missionaries established a home for girls who were orphaned, abandoned, or whose parents were unable to care for them. The “Susannah Wesley Home,” named in honor of the mother of Methodist Movement founder John Wesley, housed over a hundred girls at a time for nearly four decades, providing a loving, learning environment that enabled girls to grow up to become independent, responsible, contributing adults. The girls of the Home ranged in age from 4 to 20 and became known as the “Susie Girls.” When the need for “orphanages” decreased, the Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC) emerged as a multi-purpose agency serving the needs of a diverse population. The Center’s offerings have included a nursery school, playground, after-school clubs for youth and English classes for adults. Soon SWCC provided outreach services, Head Start classes, study hall programs and expanded its work to include mental health services for youth and adults. For more than 100 years, programs and services have been configured and reconfigured as community needs dictate.

The Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. *(had a picture of Lessie Bates here)*

The mission work of the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House began in the early 1900s when a large Bohemian-Slavonic population came to America to start a new life around the National Stockyards in East St. Louis, Illinois. A small cottage was obtained and thus began the Slavonic Settlement, as it was first known. Many new programs have been added in response to growing needs and the Neighborhood House has developed and implemented several new and innovative programs and services. These services were aimed at “Empowering and Strengthening the Individuals and Families throughout the greater East St. Louis community.” During the past ten years Neighborhood House has continued to expand its programs and services to youth, families and the elderly. Programs today include the Day Care Program, Emergency Services Program, Community Organizing and Outreach Program, Youth Services including Recreation, Education, and Cultural Arts, and a wide range of Comprehensive Family Support and Family Preservation Services.

April:

History of the Bethlehem center and Our United Methodist Roots

Mrs. Miriam Brock (picture of her here)

As the United Methodist Women approach their 150th anniversary, the Bethlehem Center celebrates two Methodist women who helped the Bethlehem Center become the community safe haven it is today. The Bethlehem Center was born out of two separate Methodist missions efforts in Chattanooga: the Good Shepherd Fold day care run by Reverend Sallie Crenshaw

and the Wesley House day care established by Mrs. Miriam Brock. In 1960, our current building, known as the Bethlehem House at the time, opened allowing for a partnership to form known as the Sallie Crenshaw Bethlehem Center that shapes our mission to this day. Mrs. Miriam Brock started a Bible study in the basement of Phillip's Memorial Methodist Church in 1920, receiving a charter for a formal mission known as the Wesley House. By the following year, the Bible study had grown into a daycare and Kindergarten classes at its own location. In 1926 the Wesley House moved to a donated house on College Street where it remained until the dedication of our current building on W 38th Street in 1960.

Reverend Sallie Crenshaw (picture of her here) Sallie Crenshaw, founder of the Good Shepherd Fold day care that would become a part of the Beth in 1968, began as a traveling missionary in the South East. In 1930 Ms. Crenshaw became a licensed preaching missionary by the Methodist Board of Missions because ordination was not available to women, especially African- American women, at the time. She attended school at Gammon Theological Seminary and Tennessee Wesleyan College. She served over 12 churches in this capacity anywhere from coal mining towns in West Virginia to the poor neighborhoods in Chattanooga. After commissioning a beer tavern on St. Elmo Avenue to use for Bible studies on Sunday morning in 1947, Ms. Crenshaw noticed a need to take care of children left at home while their parents worked. By early spring of 1948, Ms. Crenshaw rented an old house to open an official day care center. By 1954, she was able buy a plot of land to build a brand new facility, serving up to 130 children in the St. Elmo area! Just a few years later, Reverend Sallie Crenshaw became the first woman to be ordained as a pastor in the East Tennessee Methodist Conference. The Times Free Press attributes the following quote to her: "I'm no common, ordinary person. I do God's work and I live to the part. He provides everything for me. I just stand in front of the mirror every now and then to see

how I am looking." Her dedication to children and the advancement of justice for all people remains a driving force for the Bethlehem Center. At the dedication of the Bethlehem House in 1960, Mayor Olgiati gave a tribute to Mrs. Brock (picture of her) who in turn thanked the entire staff for their hard work. The facility was a unique fixture in South Chattanooga at the time because very few community spaces were equipped to serve such large numbers in specifically African-American neighborhoods. The "house" lived up to its potential by hosting summer camps, Boy and Girl Scouts, community development activities, a church on Sundays, and Bible studies throughout the week. By 1968, the Wesley House, the Good Shepherd Fold day care, and the Bethlehem House had all formally partnered together as the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers Inc. known as the Sallie Crenshaw Bethlehem Center, or "the Beth" for short. Reverend Crenshaw and Mrs. Miriam Brock continued working with the Beth until their respective retirement. Reverend Crenshaw and Mrs. Miriam Brock's shared dedication to the work of the Methodist Church in South Chattanooga continues in the programs and practices of the Beth today. The Bethlehem Center is excited to celebrate our Centennial Birthday coming up in 2020 and the 150th anniversary of the United Methodist Women in 2019!

May:

A year of celebration for 150 years of United Methodist Women

The story of one of our predecessor groups instrumental in our current Mother's Day: Ann Reeves Jarvis (her picture here) organized Women's Clubs in the 1860's to serve suffering mothers and children. They came together to respond to the needs they could see in the coal mining part of what is now West Virginia. She Started mother's clubs and taught about hydration for babies, sanitation and nutrition. As the civil war came, there was a field hospital nearby and Ann recruited nurses and after the war formed friendship clubs to promotion reconciliation. She felt women, especially mothers, had to work for peace because they could see the ravages of war in their husbands and sons. This is the genesis of the current Mother's Day. Faith was always foremost. Ann and her daughter Anna (her picture here) became members of Philadelphia's St. Georges Methodist Episcopal Church. Anna was a Sunday School teacher there but is best known for her efforts to get Mother's Day recognized as a National observance. Anna and a retailer, John Wannamaker, got Woodrow Wilson to sign the petition. Anna's mother Ann died in 1905 before an official holiday was in place, but daughter Anna, who was never a mother herself, stayed true to the purpose of the celebration. She felt Mother's Day should be a time to write a personal letter and attend church together. The inexpensive carnation, a flower in which the petals hold tight like a mother's love, was the suggested flower. As the special day later turn too commercial, Anna became a very outspoken critic of the commercialization of the original thought. United Methodist Women – Faith, Hope, Love in Action for 150 years!

June:

Happy Father's Day! We have been talking about our foremothers who 150 years ago began our current United Methodist Women, but here is an interesting article from the April issue of "MIConnect" that tells of a retired pastor who continues to use the bank his great grandmother used that has seen four generations. His great grandmother gave to predecessor United Methodist Women groups for mission and he continues to give to the current United Methodist Women and the legacy fund. (picture of the man and bank here)

The little bank that keeps on giving to support UMW

April 29, 2019

KAY DEMOSS Senior Content Editor

This year The United Methodist Women celebrate their 150th birthday. Today the UMW is the largest women's faith-based organization in the world, with 800,000 members worldwide. They have come a long way since 1869 when eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, MA to organize the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. The first act of the WFMS was to raise money to send Clara Swain, a doctor, and Isabella Thoburn, a teacher, to India.

By 1890 the organization was recognized by the General Conference under the name Women's Home Missionary Society (WHMS). The organization continued to grow and would eventually become the service and advocacy powerhouse called United Methodist bringing life-changing opportunities to women, children, and youth in 100 countries. In 2014 the United Methodist Women launched a Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign aimed at building upon the foundation set forth by their founders.

Five years ago, they said, "Imagine what is achievable if United Methodist Women had the resources to deepen and expand its mission to transform lives and ignite change in places near and far." The goal set for the Legacy Fund is \$60,000,000. To date \$26,046,570 has been raised. Will the goal be reached? Yes, it will. Because decades of faithful giving nurtures a current and future pattern of faithful giving. Witness the four generations of giving in one Methodist family as reported by the Rev. Lynn DeMoss, retired pastor of The Michigan Conference. "My maternal great grandmother, Mary Langsdon Veneman(1852-1947), had a mission coin bank which passed through women of my family and finally came to me. On the bank's face is a worn label: Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them. Four generations of giving to Methodist women's organizations. Mary Langsdon Veneman, seated, is the original owner of the WHMS coin bank. Surrounding her, left to right, are others who have filled the bank over the years: Lynn DeMoss, Helen McCarty DeMoss, and Myrta Veneman McCarty holding Rachel DeMoss Edwards. ~ photo courtesy Lynn DeMoss That bank and the women who filled it many times over, are part of the legacy of mission of the United Methodist Women. "Great grandmother's mission coin bank challenges me every day. I regularly drop in quarters and contribute them to a cause in honor of all the mission-minded women of my family, who helped shape my own faith and birthed mission involvement in me. I am now grateful for the opportunity to support the Legacy Fund honoring my foremothers." The theme of the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign is, "Together, we are building our legacy." One coin and dollar at a time, these funds will carry on the

UMW's mission of faith, hope, and love in action. "Mary Veneman's mission bank, like the widow's jug mentioned in 1 Kings 17, never runs dry." Says Lynn DeMoss. "It is the little jug that keeps on giving, as will the Legacy Fund... (four generations pic here)