



MARY AND MARTHA MAIL CIRCLE UMW

Christ United Methodist Church - Mobile, Alabama

AUGUST 2014

United Methodist Women Supports Humanitarian Relief for Child Immigrants

by Annette Apitz*

In Laredo, Texas, and other small towns along the Texas-Mexico border, more and more buses are arriving late in the day or at night at local bus shelters. The buses are filled with children and women from Honduras, Guatemala and other countries in Central America, who are often fleeing drug cartels and growing gang violence. The majority of the children are travelling alone, the women are tired, and once they've been dropped off at the bus terminals, they are left to fend for themselves.

These immigrants have already been processed at government processing stations, and have been released to appear in court at a later date. They are then dropped off at local bus stations to make their way to their final destination — their friends, family, or sponsors — where they will stay until their immigration status is determined.

The women and children are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance as they make their way to their U.S. hosts. United Methodist Women is supporting a number of National Mission Institutions — for example by supplying funds for hygiene kits, clothing and other needed items — who are providing assistance to these immigrants.

One National Mission Institution, the Holding Institute Community Center in Laredo, Texas, is working with the First United Methodist Church and other faith-based or non-profit organizations to see to the immediate needs of these women and children. Some 75 immigrants arrive every day at Holding, where they are given respite, food, clothing, showers, informal counseling, and phones to communicate with the families or hosts they will be staying with. Places like the Holding Institute act as temporary resting places, where these children and women can get some of their immediate needs met before they continue on their journey.

United Methodist Women members can help with the humanitarian assistance effort in Laredo and

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Social Justice as a Spiritual Pursuit: Living Lives of Radical Welcome

by Joan M. Maruskin*

"Is such the fast that I choose?" (Isaiah 58). The Bible and our Wesleyan tradition have much to teach us about the urgency of linking personal holiness and social holiness. Engagement in action for justice is a part of our spiritual practice. It deepens our relationship with God, neighbor, ourselves and the world. Maruskin, author of the United Methodist Women spiritual growth study *Immigration and the Bible* will use that text to explore where our spiritual practice, biblical and theological study, and action for justice intertwine. Participants will gain tools for living faith holistically and for addressing critical social concerns as a spiritual practice.

As United Methodists we are called to live lives of radical welcome. Our walk with Christ, our Christian history and our Wesleyan roots call for us to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land. That holiness is based on our having been created in the image of God and our being the hands of Christ in our world. Scripturally, from the beginning through the final pages of the Bible, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit give us instructions on responding to their love for us by showing our love for them by leading holy lives.

As United Methodists, we also turn to John Wesley and the Wesleyan movement, which was a commitment to a holiness project, to learn how we can fully embrace that project. We have scripture, reason, tradition and experience to study when seeking to turn our faith into action. As people of faith, we have questions to ask as we strive to live as disciples of Christ.

What does it mean to live lives of radical welcome? How are the connections between personal piety, social holiness, and action for justice as a Christian witness part of our spiritual practice? How do Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25 give us guidance for living into the world and helping it become God's kingdom on earth? How do we live our faith individually, communally and holistically? How do we address critical social concerns

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Selections From the Prayer Calendar
+ *Mary and Martha Birthdays*

- AUG 1 Jerrica Becker (US-2)
 AUG 2 Geneva Williams (D)
 AUG 3 Valerie Mossman-Celestin (D)
 AUG 4 Amanda Mountain (D-S)
 AUG 5 Timothy Boyle (M)
 AUG 6 Nancy August Carew (M)
 AUG 7 Rachel Berry (MI)
 AUG 8 Nkemba Ndjunga (M)
- Cati Dole***
- AUG 9 Robinson School, Puerto Rico
 AUG 10 J. Jamison Brunk (HM)
 AUG 11 Overcoming Violence in Latin America
 AUG 12 Marcia Florkey (D)
 AUG 13 David Paye Guinkpa (M)
- Shay Bruton***
- AUG 14 Fay Flanary (D)
 AUG 15 Sara Cook (M)
 AUG 16 Killingsworth, Columbia SC
 AUG 17 Liwliwa Robledo (D)
 AUG 18 Methodist Church of Indonesia
 AUG 19 Karen Ujereh (M)
 AUG 20 Ediberto Lopez0Rodriguez
 AUG 21 Brazil: Living Center for the Aging
 AUG 22 Lithuania United Methodist Church
 AUG 23 Sandi Hortman (D)
 AUG 24 Bethlehem Centers of Nashville TN
 AUG 25 Marjorie Hurder (US-2)
 AUG 26 Evangelical Methodist of Bolivia
 AUG 27 Health Promotion in Colombia
 AUG 28 Brandon Powell (US-2)
 AUG 29 Rice and Beans Ministries, Costa Rica
 AUG 30 Catherine Mudime Akale (RM)
 AUG 31 Neighborhood Centers, Chattanooga TN

SAT - AUG 09 - 9:00 am - UMCOR
 Workshop on Health Kits - Christ UMC See
 items needed on page 3.
 A contribution from the Mail Circle was sent
 to CUMW treasurer to purchase 10 kits.

Response Moments
* *selected by Vera Moore*

We've been thinking a lot recently about our path-breaking, risk-taking, difference-making foremothers. Certainly this relates to the passing of several United Methodist Women luminaries over the past year—women like Theresa Hoover, Elaine Gasser, Ethel Born, Lois Dauway and others who have graduated to life eternal and left a legacy of service, courage and excellence in organizing for mission with women, children and youth. In obituaries and eulogies, we give witness to their work and leadership. United Methodist Women members often recall their signature accomplishments that undergird and inspire the work that we do today.

In 2019 United Methodist Women will reach the milestone of 150 years in mission. The next five years leading up to this anniversary is a time for celebration! It is also a time for reflection, a time to ask, "What will our legacy be?" How can we be as creative and effective as our foremothers were in leaving a strong women's mission organization and the means to provide for the needs of women, children in youth long after we're gone?

Gathering and telling the story of United Methodist Women is one way to celebrate and pass on this great legacy of mission. Every telling of the story is an invitation to some woman to join us in mission.

Giving to The Legacy Fund is another way.

The Legacy Fund is a forward-thinking permanent endowment with income dedicated to strengthening United Methodist Women. Recently a small group of retired deaconesses and former staff and directors have led us to establish a five-year fundraising plan for The Legacy Fund. The total program of United Methodist Women is mission. United Methodist Women service, advocacy and transformative learning opportunities equip members to be agents of change and promotes the empowerment of women that is essential to address the root causes of so many conditions harming women, children and youth. The Legacy Fund will provide for administration of United Methodist Women's grants, scholarships and mission personal and finance technological updates like operating systems for data and communication, and more. Ensuring a regular source of support for these core expenses will free future generations to budget Mission Giving to connect directly with the needs of women, children and youth. It will allow our successors to promote Mission Giving in a totally different way.

You will hear more about this campaign through your Conference United Methodist Women. We invite every member to contribute to The Legacy Fund monthly or annually between 2015 and 2019. We also invite every member to name The Legacy Fund in her will or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or pension. And, we will continue to tell the story and invite others to participate.

We have a great legacy, and every one of us is part of extending that legacy to those who come after us. I can't wait to see what we can do as a part of this celebration.

Harriett Jane Olson
 General Secretary, United Methodist Women

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elsewhere. Members can donate to the Holding Institute and other United Methodist Women National Mission Institutions, or can drop off supplies at a number of churches or community centers. Please see the details of how you can help in the right column of this page. The women and children from Central America desperately need our help on this part of their long journey.

Give Thanks.
Give Now.



- ♥ Donate to the Holding Institute Community Center in Laredo, Texas #N592377
- ♥ Donate to the Houchen Community Center in El Paso, Texas #N581342
- ♥ Donate to the Neighborhood House of Calexico, California #N922592

[United Methodist Women Online Donations](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

* Annette Apitz is editor of

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

↓ Take these with you August 9th ↓

Health Kit Materials

1 hand towel

15" x 25" to 17"x 27";
Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels
are NOT acceptable.

1 washcloth

1 comb

Comb needs to be sturdy and at least 8" long;
No pocket combs or picks please;
Rattail combs and combs without handles are
acceptable.

1 metal nail file or nail clippers

No emery boards or toenail clippers please.

1 bath-size soap

3 oz. and larger sizes only;
No Ivory soap due to moisture content;
Do not remove from original packaging.

1 toothbrush

Adult size only;
Do not remove from original packaging.

6 adhesive bandages

¾" to 1"-size;
Common household Band-Aids.

1 plastic bag

One-gallon size sealable bag only.

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

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as a spiritual practice? How do we decide which social concern or concerns to address? How do we build radical hospitable communities? How does Matthew 5:43-48 give us guidance in doing so? Do you see yourself as a sinner or saint, and why? Scripturally, which does Christ see you as and call you to be? What does it mean to be created in the image of God? Who is the stranger, and have you ever been one?

The biblical meaning and practice of hospitality was one of welcoming the stranger. In the Hebrew Bible, God cares for the exiles and strangers. In the New Testament, Jesus becomes a refugee, an asylum seeker and is undocumented at the time of his crucifixion. He also models care for strangers and sends the Holy Spirit to guide us in living lives of radical welcome. Theologically, the stranger among us may very well be God, Christ or an angel. Over the centuries the meaning of hospitality has shed the idea of welcoming the stranger and very often means welcoming friends, relatives, close neighbors and members of our particular social group.

As we ponder living radical lives, we remember that we have been created in God's image. How do we live into that knowledge and partner with God to bring peace on earth and goodwill toward all?

Resources

Movie: *The Visitor*, directed by Tom McCarthy

A lonesome widower and college economics professor finds his mundane existence suddenly shaken up when he befriends a pair of illegal immigrants, one of whom has recently been threatened with deportation by U.S. immigration authorities. Read more about this movie at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Visitor_\(2007_drama_film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Visitor_(2007_drama_film))

United Methodist Women Connection

Visit the Global Migration and Immigration Rights page
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/immigration

Learn about Immigration and the Bible

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/immigrationstudy

Suggestions for Action

You may want to organize a refugee resettlement committee and resettle a refugee or refugee family in the near future.

***Joan M. Maruskin** national administrator of the Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program's Religious Services Program. In this position she monitors, provides guidance and supervision to the Religious Services staff in Department of Homeland Security detention centers located in six facilities throughout the country. She and is also the liaison with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on religious services. Maruskin is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, an immigration advocate, and a holds masters of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Wesley Theological Seminary. She wrote United Methodist Women's 2012 study *Immigration and the Bible: A Guide to Radical Welcome*.

I CAN Help! CAN You?

Yes, United Methodist Women (UMW) at Christ United Methodist Church use many varied and sometimes unusual means to support their mission efforts. Ongoing ways in which YOU can help include the following:

- ♥ Recycle your aluminum cans – A few UMW are also known as “the can ladies.” They collect aluminum cans, remove the tabs, (which are collected by another UMW member and turned over to support the Ronald McDonald House) and recycle the cans to support the activities of Safe Haven held at our church one Saturday per quarter. What is Safe Haven? Safe Haven is a place of refuge for homeless women on the weekends when they would otherwise be on the streets. These ladies are safe at night at McKemie Place and during the day at work, training or 15 Place, but on the weekends they have been the too-frequent victims of physical or sexual attacks and hospitalization due to exposure to the elements. Since Safe Haven has been taking place, there have been no assaults or hospitalizations! Christ UMC conducts Safe Haven one Saturday per quarter and includes activities and care-giving for these ladies. Members from all of CUMC’s UMW circles, Christ UMC’s women’s softball team, Sunday school classes, youth, and even some local businesses come together to support this mission outreach. The can ladies purchase needed supplies for making Safe Haven a special time of showing God’s love. CAN you help? Yes, you CAN! Bring your cans by the Christ UMC library on Sundays 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
- ♥ Boxtops for Education are collected in marked boxes at the desk in the Gathering Area as well as at the reception desk in the Christ Center. Found on a variety of products in grocery stores as well as office supply stores, Boxtops collected at Christ UMC turn into cash which is used by Dixon Elementary School. UMW collect, trim and count the Boxtops for the teachers at Dixon to turn in and to help fund ongoing projects or buy needed supplies.
- ♥ We also collect the UPC codes on products under the brand of Campbell’s, V-8, Glad, Swanson and Bic, among others, sending these Labels for Education to the Henderson Settlement mission in Kentucky. Churches from all over the country have contributed enough UPC labels in the past to fund the purchase of a much-needed bus for this mission, a testament to the power of working together. Will YOU help? Together we WILL make a difference to those who need it the most!

[From CUMC newsletter July 2014](#)

WELCOME - NEW MEMBER

RHONDA TRAVIS

making our membership 29. Do you have a friend who would like to be #30? Looking forward to sharing thoughts from Rhonda soon in our virtual meetings.

Congratulations to Monique McFarland! Four pieces of her art, including the one below, will be included by [Mobile Art Museum](#) in a show named *Works On Paper* Aug. 1-Oct. 31, 2014.



Service Projects 2014

Your involvement with service projects will be published here as you report them to us

- Gift to Mission in memory of Elizabeth Olson.
- Gift to Open Door Ministries - display cases
- Gift to Crossroads - meals at McKemie Place
- Gift to member - flood victim
- Gift to member’s friend - hardship, illness.

and shared with CUMW treasurer, combined with others from CUMC and throughout the organization.

This publication is the monthly virtual meeting of the Mary & Martha Mail Circle, United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama. Our Circle is just like each of the other Circles of Christ UMW with the exception that we do not have monthly meetings other than by this “virtual” program, devotion, prayer calendar/concerns, and Response moments. We make annual pledges to mission and participate in the projects of CUMW in all ways possible. We attend General Meetings as we are able. We constantly keep each other and each woman of UMW in our prayers.

Questions? Contact: Circle Coordinator, Vera Moore - 888-248-1680 or email - vmoore4474@gmail.com