



MARY AND MARTHA MAIL CIRCLE UMW

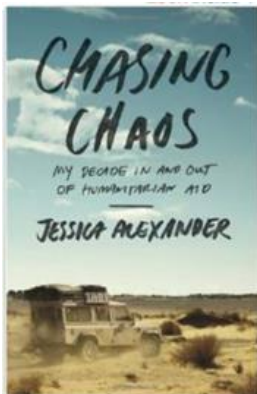
Christ United Methodist Church - Mobile, Alabama

OCTOBER 2014

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAM 2015

Vera shares comments on books read for
Plan I - one book from each of the five categories

Education for Mission



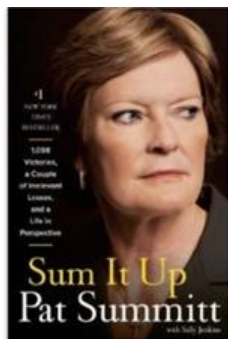
Chasing Chaos: My Decade In and Out of Humanitarian Aid

By Jessica Alexander - Random House (2013)

In this honest and irreverent memoir, Jessica Alexander introduces readers to the realities of life as an aid worker. We watch as she manages a 24,000-person camp in Darfur, collects trial evidence in Sierra Leone and contributes to the massive aid effort in Haiti; we also hear about parties, romances, burnouts and self-doubt while struggling to do good in places that have long endured suffering. 400 pages.

VTM comments on the Kindle version ~ If you are offended by "ugly" language this book is not for you. I call the objectionable words "ugly" and continue reading. Jessica's story divulges many aspects of humanitarian aid and the people in high paying positions which were new to me. Well worth the read. Truly educational.

Leadership Development



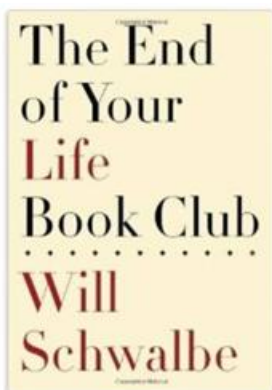
Sum It Up: 1,098 Victories, a Couple of Irrelevant Losses and a Life in Perspective

By Pat Summitt - Random House (2014)

Pat Summitt, a country girl from Henrietta, Tennessee, grew up driving fast and playing hard, learning basketball playing with a homemade backboard against three brothers. She went on to win an Olympic medal and at 22 became head coach of the University of Tennessee Lady Vols. 416 pages.

VTM comments on the Audible version ~ Pat Summitt is a role model for the many women she's coached; 74 of her players have become coaches. Pat's life took a shocking turn in 2011, when she was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease, an irreversible brain condition that affects 5 million Americans. Despite her devastating diagnosis, she led the Vols to win their 16th SEC championship in March 2012. Way more about basketball than I ever wanted to know but appreciate its importance to the author and vital part of her autobiography. 13 hours listening time.

Nurturing for Community



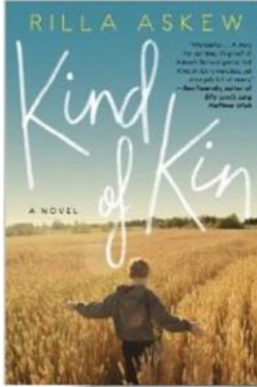
The End of Your Life Book Club

By Will Schwalbe - Random House (2012)

The End of Your Life Book Club is the inspiring true story of a son and mother who start a book club that brings them together as her life comes to a close. Over two years, Will and Mary Anne carry on conversations that are both wide-ranging and deeply personal, prompted by a diverse selection of books and a shared passion for reading. Throughout, they and we are reminded of the power of books to comfort, astonish and teach. 352 pages.

VTM comments on the Audible version ~ This book will inspire you to read to your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. Will Schwalbe felt deserted and abandoned the one night his mother was busy with her guests and forgot to come upstairs and read to him. The love of books apparently inherited or learned from his mother saw Will through his mother's cancer, the treatments, her death, through mourning and continues today. While Mary Anne Schwalbe's descendants will not know the joy of listening to her voice reading to them or to benefit from the conversations resulting from reading the same books, they will be able to read the books and better know their heritage from the words of those books. Do leave a list of your favorite books among the treasures you leave for your loved ones. I'm hiding love notes in books I've designated for certain people. 9 hours listening time well spent.

Social Action



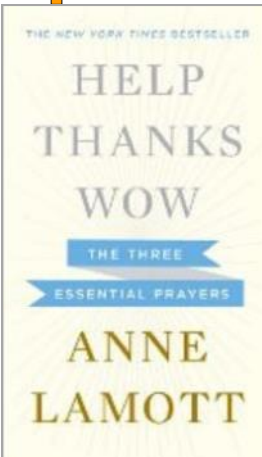
Kind of Kin. A Novel

By Rilla Askew - Harper Collins/Ecco (2014)

A new Oklahoma state law makes harboring an undocumented immigrant a felony. Rilla Askew's brilliant, hilarious and heartfelt novel follows a handful of complicated lawmakers and lawbreakers as workers are exiled, friends turn informers and families are torn apart in a statewide exodus of Hispanics. In the end, Kind of Kin reveals how an ad hoc family and an entire town unite to do anything necessary to protect its own. 432 pages.

VTM comments on the Audible version ~ Fiction but portrays an inside view of the immigration problem. It is easy to see the happenings in this novel are actual, perhaps not in any one situation, but in some ways in common to many. I'm struggling over the term "hilarious" as used in the description above. I don't think even David Letterman would be able to find anything hilarious or funny about the plight legal or undocumented immigrants. Please read or listen and give us your thoughts. 13 hours listening time.

Spiritual Growth



Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers

By Anne Lamott - Thorndike Press /Gale Cengage Learning (2012)

Help. Thanks. Wow. Three simple prayers — asking for assistance, appreciating the good we witness, and feeling awed by the world — get us through the day and show us the way forward. Large print. 157 pages.

VTM comments on the Audible version ~ Verified that it is good to say, "Thank you, God" when I arrive safely home from a trip to the grocery store or retrieve something from the floor without falling out of my chair. Author and narrator of the audio book, Anne Lamott, tells that giving thanks for small things is habit forming, a good habit to always be thankful for all things. I'm practicing use of the three suggested words but wondering if they are in the proper order. We are told when addressing people it is good to begin with a compliment before asking a favor. Don't you think God would like this acknowledge as well? Perhaps we should begin with "Wow, God you do great things, please help me with all things great and small thanks God for all you do!" One hour and forty-six minutes listing time but provided lessons for a lifetime.

Other books on the 2015 Reading Program

If the books reviewed in this month's virtual meeting don't appeal to you there are numerous other titles available.

If you are interested in all titles which may be read for "credit" in the 2015 Reading Program, that list can be provide to you as PDF. This list includes books from 2011 through 2015 programs. You may also review the books on United Methodist Women Mission Resource website

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

A list of books available from Lighthouse Library will be published in the CUMW Yearbook 2015.

You may purchase books from [United Methodist Women Mission Resources](#) or from Amazon.

Join the discussion concerning the Reading Program books at [UMWOnline.org](#)

We participate in United Methodist Women Reading Program

- to celebrate freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ with the ability to read and discern the truth
- to better know God and ourselves
- to expand concepts of mission
- to develop a creative, supportive fellowship in discussing and taking action on what we've read.

These members of CUMW were awarded certificates in 2014: Phyllis Allen - Jo Anna Largen - Debbie Bell - Patty Brown - Bobbi Ferguson - Mary Fuller - Dottie Graves - Lillie Hamilton - Betsy Holland - Judy Loftin - Sterling Mallory - Bonnie Malone - Vera Moore - Jackie Reimer - Elaine Sanford - Joyce Sasser - Judy Vajgrt - Pat Woods.

Betsy Holland, Judy Vajgrt and Pat Woods completed Plan IV (20 books). The others complete Plan I (5 books)

How many of the names above can you identify as Mail Circle members?

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

- OCT 1 Israel/Palestine: Mar Elias Peace Center
 OCT 2 Myka Kennedy Stephens (D)
 OCT 3 Israel/Palestine: Sabeel Youth Program
 OCT 4 Kevin Nelson (HMR)
 OCT 5 Amanda Caruso (D)
 OCT 6 Gayle Lesure (CCW/D)
 OCT **7*** Darlene Logston (US-2)
 Mary Messer
 OCT 8 Hannah Hanson (M)
 OCT 9 Grace Musuka (RM)
 OCT 10 Esther Karimi Gitobu (M)
 OCT 11 Rachel Harvey (D)
 OCT 12 Albert Longe (MI)
 OCT 13 Angel Ray (D)
 OCT 14 Shannon Goran (M)
 OCT 15 Warren Village, Denver CO
 OCT 16 Jacqueline Agre (M)
 OCT 17 Tiffania Willetts (MI)
 OCT 18 Crossroads Urgan Center, Utah
 OCT 19 Community Methodist Center, Virgin Islands
 OCT 20 Red Bird Missionary Conference, Kentucky
 Kerry Cohen
 OCT 21 Stephanie Suggs (D)
 OCT 22 Choctaw Mission, Mississippi
 OCT 23 Kingdom House Children's Services, Missouri
 Blackfeet Parish, Montana
 OCT 25 Mbwizu Ndjungu (M)
 Donna Alexander
 OCT 26 Sybil Perrell (D)
 OCT 27 The Big Garden, Omaha, Nebraska
 OCT 28 Carol Seckel (HM)
 OCT 29 Harry Howe (CCW)
 OCT 30 Diane Abbott (M)
 OCT 31 Sandra Wickberg (D)

***OCT 7**

10:00 am CUMW Officers and Circle representatives meet to plan the schedule and events for all United Methodist Women at Christ UMC for 2015.

If anyone from the Mail Circle can attend this meeting let me know and I'll be so happy to let Joyce Genz, President CUMW, know you'll be representing us. She'll be very pleased to welcome you and as I remember a lovely lunch is served - Turnip Soup was the best ever!

Response Moments *Responsively Yours by Harriett Jane Olson*

October 2014 ~ What makes for a good partnership? We hear stories about organizations coming together to strengthen their work, and we also see unraveled mergers, partner stress and unfulfilled expectations. Recently we've been thinking about what work we can do better together with partners.

Good partnerships are based on mutual respect. Partners don't need to be the same size, have the same mission or even be organized the same way. Partners need to understand what they bring to the relationship and its value. Whether a congregation, service organization or ministry supported financially, if what a partner values about my United Methodist Women group is that we make cookies or supply volunteers or contribute monetarily, my group needs to understand that. Relationships can be strained if expectations aren't clear. If we want to raise awareness of community issues and consider advocacy possibilities but what our partner really needs is more people at its site on a Wednesday morning, both of us are likely to be surprised (and likely disappointed).

Good partners help each other accomplish important objectives. The best partnerships help both organizations address high-value or strategic work. If a possible partner offers to work with you on one issue or project but you are focused on other issues or projects, your attention and priorities may not line up. It is OK to decline invitations up front and leave the door open for future collaborations.

Finally, good partners are proud to be working together. The work that they do together is significant, is aligned with their purposes and adds to the credibility and respect of everyone involved. You know this is happening when it is easy to remember to enlist each other in planning, when shared roles become routine, and when the shared work is publicly acknowledged. Surprising each other with independent decision making that affects joint work or appearing to "take credit" for each other's work may indicate that the partners are taking each other for granted or are not proud to be working together. Frustration and disappointment will almost surely result and sour any positive impacts.

United Methodist Women has some great partners, and there is room for more when we are clear on our mission and what we bring to the relationships. To have good partners, we must be good partners, which means staying focused on our mission and investing in relationships that make us better together as we follow God in faith and service with women, children and youth around the world.

Note: Our Mary and Martha Mail Circle members partners with one another and with all United Methodist Women. Those who agree please say, "**Amen.**"

DID YOU SEE THE LOVELY ARTICLE IN CUMC
NEWSLETTER - *INSIGHT*

United Methodist Women at Christ UMC

Are you a woman with a schedule that varies every day? Possibly being a caregiver keeps you pretty tied down or you just don't get out that much anymore and use technology as your means of maintaining contact with the rest of the world. Maybe you have children to get to different schools, after school activities that keep you on the run or a little one around whose schedule must fit your needs. Perhaps you work outside the home and have to include that in the mix of the needs of other family members. Add to that household chores, such as, providing a healthy meal or clean clothes for the family, and there is no way to add a regularly scheduled meeting to your already overactive life.

If you're that woman who can not add another place-to-be to her life but who really wants a connection with other women in her church, then the Mary and Martha Mail Circle may be the place for you! Email, snail mail, the telephone and the internet are the means for being in touch and a virtual meeting is posted on the first day of the month at mailcircle.net. Now at 29 strong, these women enjoy a unique avenue in accomplishing their work with mission.

Interestingly enough, this is the circle that may have the widest range in ages and locations of its members—from college-aged to seniors, from throughout Mobile County to as far away as North Carolina! There is virtually (no pun intended) no woman who would feel out of touch with this circle!

If you want to know more about becoming involved with Mary and Martha Mail Circle, visit their website or contact Circle Coordinator Vera Moore at vmoore4474@gmail.com or 251.639.2189.

*Sincere thanks to **Susan McRae**, CUMW Communication Coordinator, for writing about us and bringing us a new member so far with more to come, hopefully.*

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.
- Gift to Children's Sabbath

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

WELCOME - NEW MEMBER

Jennifer Blunier

Thanks, Jenn for your weekly Fitness I Focus:

9/15/2014 ~ Happy Monday ladies! I am so blessed to provide this little fitness tidbit to you each week beginning today. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:19 that "your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and WAS given to you by God. You do not belong to yourself for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

Today I wanted to remind you that though it feels like it's starting to cool off (YAY!), staying hydrated is the most important thing you can do to take care of your body. There are so many benefits of drinking water—it cleans out the toxins in your body, helps your muscles recuperate, helps brain function—the list goes on and on! It is recommended to drink half your body weight in water! That takes some adjustment, but it is doable!! Have a blessed week ladies!

THANKS TO
NOTALSIA WHITING

for serving on the UMW committee for Children's Sabbath. Here is how you can thank her for representing us on this committee:

Our UM Women will collect **baby wipes**. We are asking you to bring them to your circle meeting in October. Each circle has a committee member who will be responsible for collecting the baby wipes. Crossroads-Dottie Graves, Esther - Bobbi Ferguson & Pat Woods, Lydia- Patty Brown, **Mail Circle- Notalsia Whiting (leave at Church Library or Welcome Desk in Christ Center).**

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