



MARY AND MARTHA MAIL CIRCLE UMW

Christ United Methodist Church - Mobile, Alabama

NOVEMBER 2014

World Thank Offering: A Welcoming Spirit

By Yvette Richards, president of United Methodist Women national organization.

Adapted from the program book 2014-2015, "Welcomed by God, Welcoming All" Read the entire program online at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

World Thank Offering is the spontaneous giving out of love for God and people - making welcome possible!

Beginning Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, into our hearts and souls as we prepare to be the vessel that is transforming the world around us, one person at a time. Come, Holy Spirit, as we remember to give you the all the glory, honor and praise. Come, Holy Spirit, as we thank those that gave what they had so others can be taken care of in mighty and powerful ways that are beyond measure. We praise you, Holy Spirit, we honor you, Holy Spirit, and we give you glory for your welcoming spirit. Amen!

How does God make it possible for us to welcome all people in different ways?

Are we examples of the following letters in welcoming others to our Mail Circle and other circles in our lives?

- W: Witness
- E: Encouraging
- L: Loving
- C: Compassionate
- O: Obligation
- M: Meaningful
- I: Inspirational
- N: Necessary
- G: Grateful

We are the witness for God's great miracles, through encouraging others to make sure their voices are heard. We must always be encouraging

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A Thanksgiving Challenge for 2014

November 1 - Mail Circle members count the number of shoes you own. Now be honest, count them all! Flip-flops and slippers included.



Report Circle Coordinator, Vera Moore, the total pairs of shoes you own so we will know how much will be contributed by our circle. A gift in honor of each pair of shoes will be made to the in thanks for all the steps you take in making our virtual circle a real part of United Methodist Women.

The chart below is our guesstimate. We will report in our December Virtual Meeting how much we misjudged the content of each shoe closet and the total contributed by your Circle Coordinator in your honor.

Of course you also may contribute. Take your offering with you to the November 9th General Meeting.

Patsy Adams	20 pairs @ .25 = \$5.00
Donna Alexander	15 pairs @ .25 = \$3.75
Mary Anne Bemis	25 pairs @ .25 = \$6.25
Nancy Bell	10 pairs @ .25 = \$2.50
Jenn Blunier	20 pairs @ .25 = \$5.00
Shay Bruton	15 pairs @ .25 = \$3.75
Renea Burns	25 pairs @ .25 = \$6.25
Kerry Cohen	10 pairs @ .25 = \$2.50
Glenda Contos	20 pairs @ .25 = \$5.00
Kim Doss	15 pairs @ .25 = \$3.75
Kelli Dye	25 pairs @ .25 = \$6.25
Alicia Golemon	10 pairs @ .25 = \$2.50
Ruth Howard	20 pairs @ .25 = \$5.00
Kim Johnson	15 pairs @ .25 = \$3.75
Myra Martin	25 pairs @ .25 = \$6.25
Dawn Massa	10 pairs @ .25 = \$2.50
Monique McFarland	20 pairs @ .25 = \$5.00
Mary Messer	15 pairs @ .25 = \$3.75
Vera Moore	25 pairs @ .25 = \$6.25
Melissa Motes	10 pairs @ .25 = \$2.50
Blair Parrett	20 pairs @ .25 = \$5.00
Patty Parris	15 pairs @ .25 = \$3.75
Kim Pratt	25 pairs @ .25 = \$6.25
Debbie Rohr	10 pairs @ .25 = \$2.50
Kelly Rushing	20 pairs @ .25 = \$5.00
Faye Sellers	15 pairs @ .25 = \$3.75
Norma Spiller	25 pairs @ .25 = \$6.25
Nancy Swan	10 pairs @ .25 = \$2.50
Rhonda Travis	20 pairs @ .25 = \$5.00
Notalsia Whiting	15 pairs @ .25 = \$3.75
Combined Total	525 @ .25 = \$131.25

(Continued from page 1)

to our sisters as we seek to live out the vision the Lord sets on our hearts. A loving spirit and kindness to strangers is what God seeks in the kingdom of righteousness. The compassionate person will strive to invite those left on the outside. Our overwhelming obligation is to make a seat at the table for others. This will energize our spirit of goodness and will provide the inspirational atmosphere for letting others know how the Lord works in our lives. We must provide comfort for strangers to understand how necessary they are to us. We are grateful that you choose to be with us as we turn faith, hope and love into action in welcoming all to receive God's grace and mercy.

Explore the impact of [National Mission Institutions](#) and [International Ministries](#) of welcome that were made possible by gifts from United Methodist Women members to the World Thank Offering. Make note and give thanks for the many places where your giving will empower and energize the individuals and organizations that will benefit from your offerings.

The [Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2014](#) and comparatives for the period ended August 31, 2013 and full years 2013 and 2012 shows combined conference giving 2014 of \$4.85 million as compared to \$5.30 in August 2013. While our giving is a wondrous figure it is not sufficient to meet our obligations of support for women, children and youth as we are dedicated. Hopefully the message of the World Thank Offering will greatly increase the knowledge of the needs and enable additional giving in order that all agencies dependent on our support will be able to serve in Jesus name because United Methodist Women give generously.

The count of shoes in our closets illustrates we go in many directions, wear various costumes, personally serve many needs in church, family, and community. Our giving to World Thank Offering shows we support mission projects where our shoes cannot take us but we go in faith, hope and love through United Methodist Women.



LITANY- A responsive reading of Psalm 139:1-18 (NIV)

Leader: *You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.*

Response: You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

Leader: *As a sisterhood of faith you are welcomed in this place!*

Response: You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Leader: *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

Response: If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Leader: *As a sisterhood of hope you are welcomed in this place!*

Response: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Leader: *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

Response: My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Leader: *As a sisterhood of love you are welcomed in this place!*

Response: Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Leader: *How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!*

Response: Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

ALL: **As a sisterhood of faith, hope and love, we welcome you to transform the lives of women, children and youth through giving beyond measure! Hallelujah! Amen.**

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

- NOV 1 Tacoma Community House, Washington
 NOV 2 Ardell Graner (M)
 NOV 3 Nicholas Haigler (MI)
 NOV 4 Frances Taylor (MI)
 NOV 5 Tree of Life Ministry: South Dakota
 NOV 6 Carol Gullatt (D)
 NOV 7 Evana Lewis (D)
 NOV 8 Denise Walling (D)
 NOV 9* Lorene Persons (M)
 NOV 10 April English (M)
 NOV 11 Diane Hassell (D)
 NOV 12 Missionaries around the World.
 NOV 13 Young Adult Mission Service Programs
 NOV 14 Albert Willicor (M)
 NOV 15 Arrie Brandon (D)
 NOV 16 Emma Cantor (RM)
 NOV 17 Children, Poverty and Violence projects.
 NOV 18 Kathy Burton-Lewis (M)
 NOV 19 Marissa Isaac-Torres (M)
 NOV 20 Carol Clay Mann (D)

Notalsia Whiting

- NOV 21 Sherrie Buehl (D)
 NOV 22 Armarillo Wesley Community Center, TX
 NOV 23 Alpine Community Center, TX
 NOV 24 Dora Calnales Nunez (M)

Kim Doss

- NOV 25 Sharon Millard (D)
 NOV 26 Literacy for All: literacy around the world
 NOV 27 Ministries with Deaf
 NOV 28 Sarah McKay (US-2)
 NOV 29 Eumin Kim (M)
 NOV 30 Elaine La Van (US-2)

* SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9TH - United Methodist Women Sunday & General Meeting

Catered lunch at noon - Christ Center Hospitality Room

Program - World Thank Offering
 Hostess - Crossroads Circle
Prayer Calendar - Mail Circle
 Response - Esther Circle
 Community Building - Lydia Circle

A SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP PIN will be presented to a Mary and Martha Mail Circle member. Can you guess the person to be honored this year? Please plan to be present to applaud this outstanding member 2014.

This will be our F2F meeting for the year.

Response Moments *Responsively Yours by Harriett Jane Olson*

Sometime this past summer I started getting information from the bank that issues my credit card about a change that was coming. Some features are being eliminated for security and some are being added. All new cards will be issued with new numbers, and all payments and other connections set up with the old card will need to be recreated. I tried to ignore this. I ignored the familiar envelop with no identifying marks that had the new card in it. I passively resisted.

This was not a change that I had requested. I had seen the reports of security concerns, and I even knew people who had experienced a problem with their cards, so I knew that a disclosure of data could create all kinds of problems. But it hadn't happened to me, and I wasn't motivated to change. In fact, all I wanted was for the card to work the same way without me having to take the time to work through setting up new operating systems. I wanted things to stay the same.

When change comes to us, and we have not personally experienced the need for the change, or when we say we want change but not the disruptions that necessarily come with it, then the person initiating the change brings a very unwelcome message. As I was fuming my way through the various notifications just before my old card was phased out, I realized we often treat change in this way. We want to continue doing the same things, with the same networks and we want results that are different, even better than past outcomes. In the case of my credit card, I wanted the bank to protect the security of the card without involving me. In the case of our lives, we want to lose weight, or get more sleep or keep up our relationships with family—but we want to do these things by following the same daily, weekly and annual routines that don't support the results we seek.

Isn't that what happened in the Exodus story when the Hebrew people began to experience the rigors of the journey through the desert? They forgot their complaints of oppression and unfair work and began to yearn for the familiar settings and familiar foods of Egypt, despite the degradations. Even the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud was not enough to reassure them that God was present in the unfamiliar.

For United Methodist Women and for our congregations, we want new relationships, we want to have an impact in the community, and we want others to know about all our great work. But do we want this to happen in a way that doesn't require us to make the changes we want to see? Of course, unlike my card issuer, United Methodist Women's national office can't prescribe a guaranteed process to grow your unit or increase your visibility or amplify your reach into your community. So, for us it's even harder. We each must experience some trial and error, and we might need to change our patterns multiple times.

However, we do know that God is with us, in us and before us. We have confidence that God is still calling us to build relationships, to live out our discipleship in the world and to testify to God's faithfulness. So, what will we try today that will express this confidence and help us to see new possibilities rather than limits? I can't wait to see where God is leading us!





Photo by Brad Boland

Fitness I Focus by Jennifer Blunier

Clean Living beginning November 10, 2014

At church we discussed being a prayer warrior instead of a prayer worrier. I find that that is so difficult in every day life. It requires us to really conscientiously think about what kind of thoughts we are putting into our body. As I was reflecting on this, it made me realize the importance of also being aware of what we put into our bodies with food. If we aren't conscientious of what we put into our body, our body will no longer be a temple to the Lord.

I'd like to extend an invitation to each of you to participate in a clean eating/devotional group. I'm looking for at least 5 people. I will provide a grocery list and recipes and 5 packets of a nutrient dense shake at a cost of \$20. Please let me know if you are interested.

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
- Estate closing - numerous items to Open Door
- Gift to family of hit and run accident.

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

WELCOME - NEW MEMBER

Debbie Rohr

Thanks, Joyce Genz, president of United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church, for sending Debbie our way. We look forward to sharing Debbie's loves and interests in the near future. We are confident she will be an inspiration to the Mail Circle.

FEATURED IN VIDEO

Joyce Genz

is more than president of United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church. She and Bill Genz were featured in a video shown at CUMC and may be found on the church's Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/christumcmobile

Bill & Joyce Genz have taught our English as a Second Language (ESL) class each week for the past six years and helped thousands learn English. Watch this video to see how this ministry is impacting our community.

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 - vmoores4474@gmail.com