



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Mary and Martha Mail Circle



Time
Talent
Treasure

United Methodist Women
Christ United Methodist Church
Mobile, Alabama

January 2016

Women Providing for Jesus' Ministry

by Jane A. Bucher

Soon afterwards Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources. ~ Luke 8:1-3

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and many others responded to God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ and joined his ministry. They were with Jesus at his crucifixion, at his burial, at the empty tomb.

Mary Magdalene is mentioned in all four Gospels. Susanna and Joanna are mentioned in Luke. Joanna is a person of wealth and status and the only one the Scripture says is married.

Jane Schaberg's article on Luke in *The Women's Bible Commentary* says scholars have differing interpretations on the women's role. Some suggest the women's duties were domestic, others that they preached about the kingdom, and still others that they were wealthy philanthropists or benefactors.

Biblical scholar Renita Weems, in her book *Just a Sister Away*, reflects on the women who followed Jesus. Her writings speak to us as we focus on giving. Stating that undoubtedly women from all economic backgrounds were changed by Jesus, Ms. Weems suggests that those imagined as wealthy women may very well have simply been committed women giving all they had to a vision of a new kingdom -- not rich women but generous women who gave all they had even if what they had was very little.

Ms. Weems also notes that this is a community of women. Whenever the Gospel writers refer to Jesus' female companions, more than one woman is mentioned. Perhaps they stayed together because there is strength and visibility when in community. Ms. Weems writes:

"Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and other female traveling evangelists made up the band of female

workers who surrendered and sacrificed everything to follow Jesus....between teaching, they did the cooking; beyond recruiting, they did the mending; in excess of donating their funds, they donated their time.

"To his ministry, they had given everything they had: their gifts, talents, time, money...their very substance. Anything to keep his dream going. In short, the women had ministered to Jesus out of the abundance of their hearts."

United Methodist Women follow the example of these biblical women. We are a community of women committed to following Jesus. Giving of our time, our resources and our money is part of who we are as women organized for mission.

Our giving is an expression of our faith -- a response to God's grace. Sacrificial giving is part of our heritage:

- In 1869, women in Boston responded to the needs of women in India by raising money to send a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, and a doctor, Dr. Clara Swain, as missionaries.
- Hester Williams, a former slave, led Methodist women in the South in raising funds for education for freed women. She sold a "missionary" hen named Dorcas for \$8 and a row of sugar cane for \$6 to challenge women to give for schools.

Belle Bennett saw the need for women to be trained for missionary service. She traveled 20,000 miles and wrote 3,000 letters to raise money to establish Scarritt Training and Bible School in 1891.

Responding to the needs of women, children and youth, United Methodist Women in 1999 continue to give for mission. Members give their prayers, talents, time and money. Their financial gifts of more than \$20 million a year support mission across the United States and around the world.

Reading closely

Let us more closely at what it means to give to mission by looking more closely at Luke 8:1-3. Read this passage again, thinking about who these women -- named and unnamed -- were. Then imagine yourself as one of these women. Ask yourself:

(Continued on page 3)

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

- Jan 1 Krystal Norman (GMF Intl)
 Jan 2 AK Child & Family, Anchorage AK
 Jan 3 Han Kim (K)
 Jan 4 Methodist Church of Sri Lanka
 Jan 5 Tyler Smoot (GMF US-2)
 Jan 6 DR Congo: Educating women
 Faye Sellers
 Jan 7 Romeo Del Rosario (M)
 Jan 8 Slovakia: Supporting the national church
 Jan 9 Gwen Gibson (M)
 Jan 10 Eun Ha Choi (M)
 Kelly Rushing
 Jan 11 Jane Grays (D)
 Jan 12 Cornelia Wieck (M)
 Jan 13 Charmaine Cothran (D)
 Jan 14 Tendai Paul Manyeza (M)
 Jan 15 Joseph Chan (M)
 Mary Anne Bemis
 Jan 16 Innocent Afful (M)
 Jan 17 Bethlehem Center Of Charlotte NC
 Nancy Bell
 Jan 18 Margaret Jane Kies (M)
 Jan 19 Gaston Ntambo (M)
 Jan 20 DR Congo: Schools for women and girls
 Jan 21 Sue Wolfe (D)
 Jan 22 Eun Mi Cho (D)
 Jan 23 Atlantic Street Center, Seattle WA
 Jan 24 Erie Stuckett (D)
 Jan 25 Hee Cho Om (D)
 Jan 26 Rosangelica Acevedo- Delgado (M)
 Kim Johnson
 Jan 27 Claudia Genung (M)
 Jan 28 Emmanuel Barte (M)
 Jan 29 Janet Lahr Lewis (M)
 Jan 30 Bennett College for Women, Greensboro NC
 Jan 31 Linda Frank (D)



Mrs. Rosangelica Acevedo-Delgado, missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, is a diaconal minister serving as chaplain with the Robinson School in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Mrs. Acevedo-Delgado has been chaplain at Robinson since 1996.

Robinson School's heritage, as the oldest private school in Puerto Rico, began in 1902 with the establishment of a Methodist Church on Sol Street in Old San Juan. Robinson is related to the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church and strives to provide a sound academic education of the highest order in a secure and compassionate environment, which affirms and reflects Christian values and traditions. The school's programs promote academic excellence in a campus setting where the dignity and needs of each individual student are recognized and respected.

"I grew up in the church with a desire to serve. My parents gave me the opportunity to develop this leadership that God gave me: a commitment to be a refuge bringing the Good News of salvation, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord in my community and any other places I might be needed." As she ministers to the school's community of students, teachers and families, Mrs. Acevedo-Delgado sees how God opens and closes doors for His glory.

Born in San Juan, Rosangelica attended the University of Puerto Rico and received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. She earned her Master of Arts in Art of Religion from the Evangelical Seminary in Puerto Rico and was consecrated a diaconal minister in 1984.

As a youth Mrs. Acevedo-Delgado served in civic organizations such as the Red Cross and Girl Scouts. As a young adult she served as a US-2 through the General Board of Global Ministries. "I have dedicated my life to serve, to love and to declare justice everywhere I may be with the help of God."

Mrs. Acevedo-Delgado and her husband, Mark Robinson, are the parents of one adult daughter, Rosangela.



Christ United Methodist Women Yearbook 2016, beautifully prepared by Susan McRae, CUMW Communications Coordinator, is now available. It can be sent to you as a PDF. Let us know when you are ready to receive it and we'll e-mail it to you. It is so convenient to have all this information at your fingertips on your computer. Thanks, Susan.

(Continued from page 1)

- How would I tell the story?
- How would I tell the story to Luke if he were interviewing me?

What would I want him to tell his readers?

Considering your answers, write the story in Luke 8:1-3 from the perspective of one of the women. When you've finished writing, ask yourself -- and others if you are using this Bible study in a group -- the following question:

What does your version of the story say to you and other members of United Methodist Women about your giving as women committed to mission?

Spirit as missionary

Often we are tempted to see giving as one more thing we "ought" to do -- a burden. Author Lesslie Newbigin suggests another approach to mission giving in his book, *Mission in Christ's Way*:

"It is not that the church has a mission and the Spirit helps us in fulfilling it. It is rather that the Spirit is the active missionary, and the faithful church is the place where the Spirit is enabled to complete the Spirit's work."

Mr. Newbigin goes on to explain that mission is the overflow of a great gift -- the fulfillment of God's promise to us. Quoting Acts 1:8 -- *...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you; and you will be my witnesses...* -- he emphasizes that this is a promise not a command. The passage does not say, "You must go and be witnesses." It says, "The Holy Spirit will come and you will be witnesses." There is a vast difference in these two statements.

God has given us the gift of sharing in God's mission in the world by witnessing to God's acts in the past and in the present. Giving is being in mission. Giving to mission is a commitment to proclaiming the Gospel.

Sacrificial giving

Author Kenneth Irving Brown explains this attitude toward giving in another way:

"If you believe in something, you support it. If you support something, the time comes when good wishes and cordial words are not enough and your hand reaches for your pocketbook. Then the fun begins. For giving is fun."

He suggests that our checkbooks offer an honest list of those things in which we believe.

Our foremothers reached for their pocketbooks to support mission. They gave sacrificially. This is true of many United Methodist Women members today. Like the women who followed Jesus, they are committed women consistently giving what they have. Others in our organization have not been challenged with the opportunity to give to mission in such a way.

Let us think about how we might offer that challenge to ourselves and to others. Begin by reading the story of the

widow's mite -- Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4. Think about the following questions:

- How do you and can you follow the widow's example?
- What blocks you from giving sacrificially?
- What experiences have you had that encourage you to give more to mission?
- What messages can you share with other women to encourage them to give to mission?
Are there ways you can work in community with other women in your church to increase your giving?

When we give out of joy and gratitude and faith that God will do great things with our gifts, we will be changed. Like Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and the many other women who followed Jesus, we will experience growth and renewal in relationship to God and to our sisters and brothers.

Like our foremothers, let us travel with Christ in community with each other providing for Christ's peoples out of our resources. Let us praise God for the opportunity to be in mission through giving.

From [Response](#)

**Please go to page 4
to make your pledge for 2016.**

Member Involvement Beginning anew in this New Year 2016

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

- Weekly Prayer Focus - Norma Spiller
- Birthday Cards to Members - Patsy Adams
- Circle Coordinator - Vera Moore

What responsibility shall add by your name?

Service Projects Beginning anew in this New Year 2016

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

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 - vmooore4474@gmail.com



MY PLEDGE TO MISSION 2016

As a member of UMW, I celebrate and commit to supporting United Methodist Women's local, national, and global missions.

For the coming year, I pledge

\$ _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please check one to enable your Pledge to Mission to be properly recorded:

- I have enclosed a check for my total Pledge.
- I will send additional gifts Monthly.
- I will send additional gifts Quarterly.
- I will send my total Yearly Pledge later.
- I cannot give financially but will contribute in other ways.

Send your Pledge and/or check to

PHYLLIS ALLEN, CUMW TREASURER

For her mailing address, see the
CUMW Yearbook 2015
or e-mail vmoore4474@gmail.com

When sending your check, please be certain to let Phyllis know you are a member of the

MARY AND MARTHA MAIL CIRCLE

In addition to \$, you may support United Methodist Women by accepting one or more of the following:

- Prepare Bible study for the monthly virtual meeting.
- Prepare mission stories for the virtual meeting.
- Prepare reports from mission projects.
- Attend General CUMW meetings.
- Prepare reports from General CUMW meetings.
- Prepare a special program for the virtual meeting.
- Provide items of interest for virtual meeting.
- Report your work with a local service project.
- Prepare items for Annual CUMW Bake Sale.
- Work at the Bake Sale tables.
- Prepare soup for the Annual UMW Soup Sale.
- Work at the Annual Soup Sale tables.
- Prepare items for UMCOR kits.
- Prepare items for Safe Haven.
- Serve at Safe Haven events.
- Send greeting cards to sick Mail Circle members.
- Attend CUMW Mission Study.
- Write a report of a mission study.
- Attend Mobile District Annual Day.
- Attend Mobile District Spiritual Enrichment Day.
- Maintain a Mail Circle Group on UMWOnline.org
- Maintain a Mail Circle page or group on Facebook.
- Maintain Mail Circle items on Pinterest.
- Follow unitedmethodistwomen.org.
- Follow UMCMission.org
- Follow twitter.com/UMWWomen
- Follow United Methodist Women on Facebook.
- Follow www.youtube.com/user/UMWWomen
- Follow www.flickr.com/photos/UMWWomen
- Follow www.pinterest.com/umwomen/
- Follow www.awf-umw.org/
- Follow www.awf-umw.org/mobile.html
- Share Mail Circle items on Facebook.
- Write about Mail Circle on your Facebook page.
- Write about Mail Circle on your Twitter account.
- Send cards and notes to missionaries.
- Visit CSports and let them know you are praying.
- Visit other CUMW Circle meetings.
- Other
- Other

A Check List we hope no one will need to use but understand if you do.

- If you no longer wish to remain a member of the Mail Circle, please let us know that we should remove your name. [E-mail Circle Coordinator](#)
- We would be very happy if you are leaving us to become a member of another circle of United Methodist Women. [E-mail Circle Coordinator](#)
- If you are not able to continue membership at this time, we will pray you will come back at a later time. [E-mail Circle Coordinator](#)