

MISSION LINK ON

United Methodist Women, California Nevada Conference, El Camino Real District, Vol. 31, No. 2, May 2020

Don't recycle plastic... Wait, What?

BY LISA HATCHETT
SANTA CLARA UMW

As faithful United Methodist Women, we care deeply about the environment. We don't use disposable water bottles and we religiously recycle any plastic that has that symbol with the triangles and chasing arrows. Yay for us, right? So why are there big floating masses of plastic in our oceans (called gyres) that are polluting the water and killing marine life? Is it that most of the world doesn't recycle? Or is there a deeper problem with the entire recycling effort?



Litter on Singapore's East Coast Park

Photo by Vaidehi Shah, from Wikimedia Commons, licensed under Creative Commons <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en>>

Did you know only about 10% of the plastic waste has ever been recycled? Soda bottles and milk jugs are the easiest to recycle, but most single-use plastic (like Ziplock bags, deli containers, produce clamshells, wrappers and packaging) is not being recycled. The reason is economics - the cost of manufacturing new plastics is much cheaper than the cost to recycle and remanufacture plastics.

So how did we get into this mess?

According to a recent PBS Frontline documentary entitled "Plastic Wars"*¹, plastic items became very popular in the 40's, 50's and 60's because they performed well and were lightweight, durable and

inexpensive. The ecology movement which started in the 1970's put pressure on the plastics manufacturers by exposing the growing problem of plastic waste. The response from the petrochemical industry was to support the idea of recycling by establishing a system for identifying various types of plastics using the recycling symbol (triangle with chasing arrows) and numbers. They worked with the state and federal legislatures to require this labeling on all products. Millions was spent by the plastics manufacturers on advertising to convince the consumers



Continued on Page 4

SAVE THE DATE **Saturday,**
ALL ARE INVITED **October 20, 2020**

EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Annual Celebration

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Mary Cheng

WORKSHOPS: to explore ways to renew our community

CELEBRATIONS: of our community of United Methodist Women

THEME: **Let Your Light Shine:
Renew Community**

About our keynote speaker: Spirituality, leadership development and

transformation are at the heart of Mary Cheng's passion to help individuals, organizations and communities thrive. As a former staff member at the National Office of United Methodist Women, Mary had the privilege of leading Mission u, a transformative educational program engaging women from across the country to study current social issues in a faith-rooted, participatory and action-oriented way. Since her return home to California last year, she is involved in a project to assess and recommend initiatives to develop the leadership of the clergy in the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

Planning ahead: In August, each local group will receive requests for reports to be included in the event program.

The reports will be due in early September, and will include Reading Program participation, Mission Today participation, Racial Justice program participation, "5-Star" Mission Giving, and members who have passed away since October 2019.

Location: To be announced.



Western Jurisdiction UMW

"Calling u" *rescheduled*

Our Western Jurisdiction United Methodist Women have rescheduled the "Calling u" event to September 11-13, 2020. It will be

held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Tempe, AZ as originally planned.

If you had previously registered for the April event, you have received an announcement of the rescheduling, and what to do with your flight and hotel reservations. Get this and all the latest information at www.wjumw.com/.

The Western Jurisdiction United Methodist Women look forward to offering their 2020 Calling u Event for service, spiritual care, social action, networking, leadership development, and enrichment!

PURPOSE

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

MISSION LINK

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**EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**
<elcaminorealumw.org>
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To contact any District Team member, send an email to <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>. Please include on the subject line, the Team member to whom your message should be directed.

Mission link is published quarterly. Each issue is also available on the El Camino Real District UMW website <elcaminorealumw.org>. Please send address changes to El Camino Real District UMW President K Stone.

Please direct items for publication in Mission Link to Wanda Garrett, Communications Coordinator. If you provide photos of recognizable individuals, please be sure you have obtained permission from those individuals to publish their picture. The next issue will be published in September, 2020. The deadline for articles and photos to be submitted for this issue is Monday, August 10, 2020.

To subscribe to the District UMW "Quick News" emails, please send a request to Wanda Garrett at <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>

Notes from the President

Greetings from my Day 40 of SIP



My sincere hope that each of you & families are safe and well.

I am astounded how our/my life has changed. I had no concept of words and practices that have now become so familiar...shelter in place, social distancing, standing in line to go into the grocery store, computer teaching, or the wearing of masks! (I'm not crazy about the look of the white surgical masks, so I throw a pretty scarf on top.) The magnitude of this infectious disease and tragedy is touching so many lives.

From our church sermon last Sunday, I have these thoughts:

- Stay home, to keep ourselves and others safe. This is a key to healing and the end of the pandemic.
- Stay in touch, creating a new character to community, reaching out to friends, especially those who are alone. Use social media or email, send a card or a “virtual” hug. Phone calls are a special treasure!
- Practice a spirit of gratitude. Not only for ourselves, but be especially grateful for the sacrifices made by health care workers, grocery store employees, and those who serve in the pharmacies. Be grateful for the innovative ways your congregation has found to worship.

Gratitude resonates with me! I have so much to be grateful for, even hearing the birds outside my window as I work from home.

Gratitude for my pastor, whose words touched my heart:

I do believe God would have us not to “conform“ or to be drawn down by the difficult challenges of this world. Instead, we are invited to “transform” and “renew our minds” amidst this world. As our minds are renewed, we change our behaviors, our ways of engaging with our world.

Gratitude for a Facebook post shared by a friend:

Nothing should go back to normal
Normal wasn't working
If we go back to the way things were, we will have lost the lesson
May we rise up and do better.

I so encourage us to keep our journal of gratitude. Perhaps we share them when next we meet. I send to each of you a ‘virtual’ hug for abundant Hope.

K Stone, President
El Camino Real District UMW

EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT UMW CALENDAR

JUNE 26-27 Mission u 2-day event CANCELLED	SEPTEMBER 19 District UMW Leadership Team Meeting Almaden Hills UMC San Jose, CA	OCTOBER 24 El Camino Real District UMW Annual Celebration Location tba
JULY 18 Mission u 1-day event CANCELLED		
AUGUST 7-9 Mission u 3-day event CANCELLED	OCTOBER 17 California/Nevada Conference UMW Annual Celebration St.Marks UMC Sacramento, CA	DECEMBER tba District UMW Leadership Team Meeting Location tba
AUGUST 1 District UMW Leadership Team Meeting Almaden Hills UMC San Jose, CA		

Social Action

Wait, What? Cont'd from Page 1

that plastics were being recycled and that if *we* recycled enough, we could solve the plastics waste problem.

However, what we weren't being told was that **recycling was failing!** Only a small percentage of the plastic in your recycling bin was processed and reused. The plastics industry continued to advertise the benefits of plastics and recycling, but did not invest in recycling technologies and capacity or in new materials. Since we couldn't recycle the plastics, US scrap was sold to China, who needed the raw materials for making their own plastics. They recycled a portion of the plastics, and dumped the rest in landfills. In 2018, China stopped importing plastic waste and our waste now goes to Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia, where it is recycled, landfilled and burned. Indonesia is choking – literally – on this plastic waste. The American Chemical Council (ACC) has published a goal to have 100% of plastic recycled by 2040 and it will take considerable investment by petrochemical companies and government to achieve this goal. Environmental advocates warn that we have reached the ecological limit of our ability to handle the plastic waste and we cannot wait another 10 or 20 years to address this problem.

So, what can we do about this situation?

Remember whole phrase is “**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.**” Focus on **reduction** of your use of plastics and **reusing** plastics where you can.

- Pay attention to product packaging, and buy products in glass, cardboard or metal rather than plastic, and if you must buy in plastic, buy the largest size you can.
- Buy produce and groceries using mesh and reusable bags instead of plastic bags or clamshells.
- Try to eliminate single use plastic (Ziplock bags, plastic wrap) from your everyday life.
- Write your congressman and urge them to oppose construction of new plastics plants and hold petrochemical manufacturers financially responsible for the environmental impact caused by their products.
- Urge your congressman to support funding and tax incentives for companies implementing new recycling technologies which will employ people and help our environment.

Together we can make a difference, and the time to act is now.

*Frontline: Plastic Wars aired March 31, 2020 on PBS. <www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/plastic-wars/>

Green Notes

By Nancy Olson, Palo Alto First United Methodist Church



April is a very “green” month this year: We celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day and EASTER, each a time of renewal in our lives.

The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state: “All creation is the Lord’s and we are responsible for the ways in which

we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.”

Being aware of the impact of our actions is a good start to meeting our stewardship duties. Our impact can be harmful or positive. Planting and sustaining trees is a positive act.

Trees give us beauty and wood for homes, habitats for wildlife, clean air, and drinking water for millions of us. But they are being destroyed as never before by insects, disease, and devastating fires. You know trees are one of our most precious resources, to be cherished, protected, and replenished. But too many people don’t . . .

While I cannot personally plant a tree, I can support the Arbor Day organization as they replace the trees that have been lost in our National Forests and are helping in the work to preserve the world’s threatened rain forests.

I can plant flowers and plants that attract butterflies and bees; both being affected by diminished habitat. I can avoid harmful pesticide use.

Our Cities will be offering many fun and interesting ways to celebrate Earth Day, joining with celebrations across our country. It will be good to involve our children in group activities to build a sense of community and positive activity, and stewardship.

HERSTORY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A UNITED METHODIST WOMAN, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF COVID-19?

BY BEV ACUNA, WESLEY UMC, SAN JOSE



Bev Acuna

Being a United Methodist has made my life richer and more meaningful. Participating in missions to Mexico, working at church bazaars, Vacation Bible School, rummage sales, working at the Compassion Sunday events, attending celebrations, potlucks, Family Camp, not to mention worship service every Sunday and Bible studies, singing in the choir and in the *Doors Open* play, have all given me experiences, relationships and joy that is beyond description.

I belong to the UMW because the missions that the UMW supports bring help and hope to women through Mary Elizabeth Inn and Gum Moon and I am sure many other charities here in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Sheltering in place has been a blessing in some ways, in spite of the bad circumstances. The blessing is the communication between friends, relatives, and church friends that has inspired and brought hope and love to my life. I am even able to see other Methodist services at churches I have never attended, but know either the pastor or members of the congregation.

Peace and Grace to all UMW members.

Mission u: Learning Together for the Transformation of the World



2020 Mission u in-person events *cancelled*

After much prayer and discussion, the United Methodist Women National Office has made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person training for Mission u 2020 and encourage the cancellation of all in-person conference Mission u events due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

The result is that our CA/NV Conference Mission u events are cancelled for this year. The National Mission u team notes that this does not mean, however, that we will forgo these important and timely studies altogether! If there is ever a time to “find peace in an anxious world” that time is now. If there is ever a time to look for the impact of racism and economic inequality in times of crisis, that time is now.

In place of in-person Mission u events, the National Mission u team is collaborating with study leader trainers to bring elements of each study online over the next several months. The exact format and timeline for each study is still in development and more information will be coming as those pieces take shape. However, it is their hope that those in the Mission u community and the wider church will still be able to engage and benefit from these timely studies from the safety and comfort of their homes.

In 2021 Mission u will continue as planned with our 2021 studies:

- Moral Witness of the Church
- Children’s and Youth Studies on Violence
- Pushout
- Luke 13: New Biblically-based Curriculum

Get the latest Mission u information at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/transformational-education/mission-u

CA/NV Conference UMW Social Action Event

postponed

Interrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline

BY CONNIE HUNTER
SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR,
CA/NV CONFERENCE UMW



The CA/NV Conference United Methodist Women Social Action team has been sitting on pins and needles not knowing how this COVID-19 virus would play out. And we still don’t know. Because Governor Newsom has issued a state-wide “shelter in place” order that has been extended into May, our team decided to postpone our April 25th “Interrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline” event.

We are grateful for your support as we planned this event - and for your anticipated presence and promotion of the event.

We have begun exploring holding a virtual event. A virtual event would provide a means to educate people about this issue and to equip people to respond in some way. Since we are just beginning this conversation, we don’t have any specifics yet. Just as soon as we do, we will let you know.

Needless to say, we are disappointed to have to postpone or reimagine this event. Right now, it is of the utmost importance that each and every one of us do what we can to roll back the COVID-19 pandemic and to ease our neighbor’s pain resulting from this virus. Together and with God’s help, we will prevail.

Thanks again for your support.

COVID-19 has exposed America's Achilles' heel

BY CONNIE HUNTER, SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR, CA/NV CONFERENCE UMW



The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed this nation's Achilles' heel. Though we invest more money in our military defense system than the next seven nations combined, our military defense system leaves us defenseless against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our insistence that we cannot afford health care for all while making an oversized invest-

ment in our military defense system leaves us vulnerable to disease and pandemic. Day in and day out, our excessive investment in military systems leaves millions without preventive care and drives up the cost of health care for all of us.

When the pandemic is behind us, I pray that this nation will realize that health care for all is key to national security. Not only health care, we must redirect funds from life destroying systems (military defense) to life-promoting systems such as health care, affordable housing, nutritious food and quality public education to achieve robust national security. We must eliminate our Achilles' heel.

Note: Connie's letter was published in The San Jose Mercury News, Letter to the Editor, 04/09/2020

Almaden Hills book group meets while sheltering in place

BY BONNIE HOME, ALMADEN HILLS UMC

Our Almaden Hills book group had planned to meet once a month from February to June to discuss one UMW reading list book a month and review the current "Response" magazine, to fulfill the requirement for five books for the Plan 1 reading certificate.

We had already met in February to discuss our first book. For our March 30 meeting, during the "Shelter in Place," we did all of that in our virtual meeting using "Zoom" online conferencing.

We had invited women from two other UMW groups along with Carolyn Bircher, our District Secretary of Program Resources, to join our online meeting, since we knew that they had all read "Eleanor -- A Spiritual Biography" by Harold Ivan Smith which is in the "Leadership Development" category. Debbie Ow from Cambrian Park UMW and Carolyn Bircher accepted our invitation.

UMW Book Group, Almaden Hills UMC, invites you to their online meetings.



We began our discussion by reading together Eleanor Roosevelt's favorite prayers which were printed in the book. She lived through two World Wars, and always carried this prayer in her wallet.

*Dear Lord,
Lest I continue, My complacent way,
Help me to remember, that Somehow out there
A man died for me today.
As long as there be war
I then must, Ask and answer,
Am I worth dying for?*

From a group assignment to search online for a short video about Eleanor Roosevelt, one person shared the story of the "What's My Line" game show segment where Eleanor was the secret guest.

We included a discussion of several of Eleanor's challenging situations. K Stone and Carolyn Bircher recommended a related book they had read, "Vital Voices -- Women Leading Change" by Alyse Nelson, which is in the "Leadership Development" category.

We would love to have other readers join us at our future meetings. On April 27 we will discuss "We Pray With Her" which is in the "Spiritual Growth" category. In May our book is "When Others Shuddered" in the "Education for Mission" category.

To join our "Zoom" book discussion, contact Bonnie Home through Almaden Hills UMC.

Ministry during Shelter-In-Place

Greetings from Mary Elizabeth Inn



Let us support our MEI Sisters by giving Gifts Of Warmth

BY LYNN HERMOSO
MEI BOARD MEMBER

MARY ELIZABETH INN SHELTERS IN PLACE

MEI residents are settling in and are handling shelter-in-place orders with much patience. MEI staff is holding down the fort and accommodating requests from the ladies to the best of their abilities and resources, and MEI Board of Trustees are working diligently to

keep the Inn afloat.

There is a pending transaction where MEI is considering accepting the transfer of ownership responsibility from UMC into their own hands. Due to the uncertainty of funding from the City, MEI is treading cautiously and considering the sustainability of the transfer before making that decision.

San Francisco is up against many challenges considering the trying times we are in. COVID-19 is ravishing the city funds which highly effect the funding of MEI.

GIFTS OF WARMTH REQUESTED

El Camino Real District UMW continues to commit their support towards MEI.

We have launched a “Gifts of Warmth” outreach where each District UMW group, as well as individuals, can donate items towards this outreach.

The Gifts of Warmth were originally geared to the winter months. This is where local UMWs could gather warm clothing items such as gloves, scarves, beanies, and warm blankets to be distributed to those residents in need.

Let us continue to give “Gifts of Warmth” by shifting gears towards the Spring/Summer season. These items would consist of basic hygiene necessities – bath body/face towels, hairbrushes, toothbrushes/toothpaste, dental floss, shampoo, body soap, feminine hygiene products and a slew of items that fit into this category.

Let us help contribute to the peace that is at times at short supply, as we maneuver through our daily challenges. Lets us share in our good graces by sharing what we can in ways to help lessen the anxiety in one area that our MEI Sisters are experiencing by providing these much needed items

Join ECRD Officers as we continue to support the needs of MEI.

For more information: please contact Lynn Hermoso <vicepres@elcaminorealumw.org>.



Zoom Tea Party

BY CAROLYN BIRCHER
GOOD SAMARITAN UMC

At Good Sam we are having a Zoom tea party instead of our quarterly brunch in May. Everyone will be asked to bring their own tea in their prettiest cup. Kim Donaldson is planning a program.

Staying connected

BY WANDA GARRETT, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Your District UMW team usually meets quarterly, to plan events, check on business, and develop opportunities for ministry. Our April meeting could not be held in person, due to the Shelter-in-Place order, so we met online instead!

Several team members had used online conferencing before, but it was new to some, so we did a practice session the week prior, and used it as an opportunity to just check in. When the real meeting happened, it was successful. And we discovered that several on the team had started using online conferencing for meeting with clients, and connecting with friends and family. It may become a way of remaining connected even after Shelter-in-Place is lifted.

Our next team meeting is scheduled for August 1, at 9am at Almaden Hills UMC. If you are interested in attending (and all United Methodist Women are welcome), please let us know by sending an email to <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>.

Caring for your pets in case “things happen”

BY LYNN HERMOSO

Many of us have been catapulted into a caregiver position. Prepared or not, this becomes our new reality.



Wikipedia describes a caregiver this way – and this definition certainly fits the sign of the times: A caregiver or informal caregiver is an unpaid and without formal training member of a person’s social

network who helps them with activities of daily living.

Our lives have changed as we are held captive under COVID-19. The populous is instructed to stay home to help curb the ascending line of a graph that holds our attention. A majority of our senior population plan their shopping for essentials between 8am – 9am so as to lessen their exposure to the general public. We have changed our style in clothing. Many of us now color-code a face mask to our attire.

We are asked to look out for one another. In our new structured reality, we have prepared for ourselves and look out for each other - but who’s looking out for Fifi? As their caregiver, let’s also prepare for the care of our pets, just in case “things happen.”

Here is a guideline from City of Campbell’s CERT to help your pets with their activities of daily living during COVID-19, should you not be able to.

Please Feed My Pet*

Things happen. You (and even your spouse) get suddenly ill, in an accident, or are somehow unable to get to your pets for a longer than usual amount of time. You call on friends or neighbors to help out, but your daily pet routine is more complicated than throwing some kibble in a bowl. Prepare now so your pets will be safe and cared for in your absence.

- Start with vetting two or three people that you feel comfortable with granting access to your home - - do this well in advance.
- Stash a hide-a-key where it is extremely well

hidden. Under the pot on the porch is no longer a secret. Some ideas: duct taped under your BBQ in the backyard, taped to the inside of the recycle bin, buried under the quail statue in a ziplock bag. Get creative. Take a photo of its hiding place and include the photo in your instructions to your above-mentioned new-found pet caregiver.

- If you have a security system, you will need to include detailed instructions for disarming and arming your system. Photos could be helpful here too.
- Gather your pet’s food, medicines, and other supplies into a single area or at least make note of where to find these items inside your home.
- Write out a detailed set of pet care instructions and keep it where it can be easily found. Be very detailed as your pet caregiver volunteer may not be a pet person and may not have any idea what you are asking them to do.
- Write down pet names and how to identify who is who.
- Food and water requirements: Where to find the food in your home, serving size and frequency. Include the brand name of your food in case more is needed.
- Potty instructions. Where and when.
- What are their nighttime routines? Where do they sleep?
- Medication frequency, where to find the meds, and how to administer.
- Other special instructions including physical limitations.
- Name and contact info for your vet and the emergency after hours vet.
- Vaccination record.
- Photos of your pets (yes, in case they get out).
- Where to find your house hide-a-key (with photo).
- Lastly, enter your caregiver’s contact information into your phone address book so you can contact them when needed.

* By City of Campbell/CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). “Please Feed My Pet.” <<http://campbellcert.org/blog/2019/12/14/petpreparedness>>

Ministry during Shelter-In-Place

HERSTORY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A UNITED METHODIST WOMAN, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF COVID-19?

BY LYNN HERMOSO, VICE PRESIDENT,
EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT UMW



Lynn Hermoso

I have often wondered about being a Proverbs 31 woman.

While reading this verse, it slowly dawned on me that I did not fit this definition. Was there really a true woman in existence?

The perfect Pinterest woman? Perfect wife? Perfect Christian?

I started my search to find the counterpart of such a woman.

Being under subjection of house arrest during COVID-19, I started to do a deep biblical exploration of my own self worth. Having only candy, popcorn, and a 2-liter of Dr. Pepper to keep me satisfied, I set out to see where I could possibly fit in as a UMW.

Two hours into my 8 hours of exploration, I took a quick detour on to Face Book. There I saw numerous posts about women amongst my UMW circle extending their gifts and grace to their community. I gather they were probably as bored as I was trying to keep their idle hands busy.

As I quickly perused through Facebook "Friends" pages, I came across the post of UMW Sister, Liza S. Retired after 28 years as a Supervisory RN from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, I envision her as the consummate world traveler. She probably booked herself on an African safari in January and at this moment, enjoying herself. I was simply inspired that she had posted she was sewing facemasks and constructing face shields for her comrades in

arms. In lieu of her travels, she got down to business.

I was revolutionized to follow in her footsteps. As I quickly evaluated my sewing skills, it was then that I was struck with an epiphany. It took the act of kindness and compassion of Sister Liza S. to show me the counterpart woman to strive for.

I am not a Proverbs 31 woman. I am the counterpart of Proverbs. I am a Titus 2 woman. As UMWs, our goal as a Titus 2 woman is to train younger women in Biblical, Spirit-empowered, simple-to-measure, love-based living. We display spiritual integrity – Godly women live what they teach.

From afar, my UMW Sister has taught me well. Her actions spoke louder than her talks.

I have a newfound focus in my role as UMW. Today, I will just be content to be a Proverbs 31 woman-in-waiting for now

Proverbs 31:28-30 (NIV): Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Titus 2:3 (NIV): Teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Note:

Sister Liza S. has contributed 70 facemasks and constructed 100 face shields to be distributed to VMC Progressive Care Unit. PCU is part of critical care/step down from ICU. She also provided facemasks to her Mail Carrier, gardener and sent a pizza delivery to the staff at VMC. You can help support our medical frontline heroes. Please send your acts of kindness to Valley Medical Center. They will greatly appreciate it.

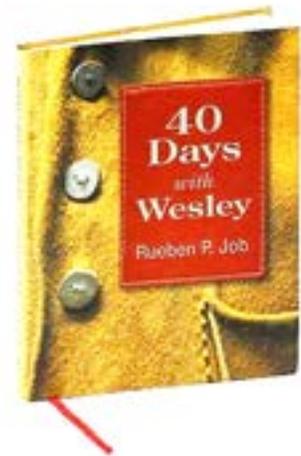
Program Resources

Book Review

BY CAROLYN BIRCHER
SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

40 DAYS WITH WESLEY

By Reuben Job



Getting ahold of UMW Reading Program books is a bit harder now that churches and public libraries are closed. A few of the books can be downloaded if your public library has e-book copies. I have about a dozen of the books that I had collected for the book exchange at Mission Springs. If you find you have reading time and want one of them, I'm willing to deliver in the West San Jose/Sunnyvale area. To arrange for delivery, contact me (see how to contact me on page 2).

Many of us on our District Team used the *40 Days with Wesley* devotional by Rueben Job during Lent. He offers a theme for each day and includes a couple scripture readings, excerpts from John Wesley's writings, a commentary and a prayer. I found it to be soothing for my soul.

True to John Wesley, there was quite a bit of emphasis on God's grace and forgiveness. It is on the Spiritual Growth list for 2020. I have a couple of copies in the above-mentioned collection or you could order for \$3.99 from <Christianbooks.com>.

Treasurer

DEBBIE OW

MISSION SPRINGS UPDATE

Good News! Even though our retreat was cancelled, ECRD did not have to pay the penalty for cancellation. This was because Mission Springs cancelled, we did not. We were very lucky in this respect as the penalty could be been in the thousands of dollars. It was nip and tuck at the end as our registration numbers were lower than we needed. The management was going to work with us but in the end, they were forced to cancel our event due to shelter in place orders by Santa Cruz county. We allowed our deposit to roll over to next year, so at least they did not need to refund that to us. Please keep them in your prayers that their business may continue strong after this crisis.

1ST QUARTER GIFTS

I received \$3,684.13 in remittances during the first quarter and this amount was forwarded to Conference UMW on April 6th. It was wonderful to see that our units are continuing to remember our commitment to

our missions even now. This number included \$575 for Mary Elizabeth Inn and \$275 for Gum Moon.

GOOD INFORMATION

If you are need someone to talk to during this time of isolation or if you need help, you can phone the AARP Friendly Voices at 888-281-0745. A volunteer will return your call within 24 hours and will be glad to chat with you. Sometimes you just need someone to talk to who isn't busy and wants to help. There will be no solicitations for contributions. I have been working in this volunteer program for a few weeks now and I think it is filling a real need in our country, especially for seniors.

BEING BOLD IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS

I was reading the newspaper April 9th and noticed a letter to the editor of the San Jose Mercury News from one of our members, Connie Hunter. I was both excited and inspired by what she said, so we are reprinting her letter - see page 6.

Committee on Nominations

BETTY SPENCER DICKEY, CHAIRPERSON

WHY NOMINATIONS?



Have you ever thought about what a Nominations committee is good for? Whether at church or UMW?

Those of us who have been attending a church for a while are usually sought out by a Nominations member to serve on a church committee. Sometime in the past, I remember saying that I would never serve on the Staff Parish Relations committee (SPRC) because I had heard that it was so hard to deal with staff. I am now on my church's SPRC, and am finding it very interesting. It's a reminder that we are all human and we all occasionally have issues that require guidance. I am learning a great deal and feeling empowered to be able to do something different.

I feel the same way about serving on the District UMW team. Each time I take on a different office, it connects me with new learning and experiences that help me grow as a leader and a spiritual person.

Our District UMW Nominations team is now beginning our search for new members to take the place of those who may be rotating off our team. We want to connect with those women who want a new experience and want to work with new people. We especially want to connect with those who may have asked why

the District UMW team is not doing more to help the local UMW.

On the District UMW team, we work with wonderful women who are kind, smart and generous with their time to help an organization that helps women, children and youth all over the world. But really, we don't have all the ideas. We need your ideas to improve and for that we need you!

At this time, we need women to be members of the Nominations Committee – this is a great opportunity to meet people! In addition, Social Action and Education & Interpretation offices will be open later this year. In these roles, you would have specific responsibilities, but you would also be working together with the other team members to prepare for special events and mission opportunities.

Since we are not currently able to visit with you in person, we hope that you will respond to us by email or via the website to let us know what role you are interested in. I will be reaching out to Presidents soon to check on how you are doing, and hope that some of you will say “yes” to this new opportunity.

Think about it.

Thanks and blessings to you in this scary but faithful time.