



September 2014

# The Inner Circle

First United Methodist Church of Downers Grove

## Focus on Women, Children & Youth

From its beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with women, children, and youth.

<b>Sarah Circle</b> <b>7:00pm</b> <b><u>Room 213</u></b>	<b>Mary Elizabeth Circle-1:00pm</b> <b><u>Chapel Hall</u></b>	<b>Rachel Circle</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b><u>Room 213</u></b>	<b>Ruth Circle</b> <b>12:45pm</b> <b><u>Chapel Hall</u></b>	<b>Miriam Circle</b> <b>12:45pm</b> <b><u>Various Homes</u></b>
Sept. 09/22	Sept. 09/24	Sept. 09/25	Sept. 09/25	Sept. 09/25
Oct. 10/27	Oct. 10/22	Oct. 10/24	Oct. 10/24	Oct. 10/24

## From your President.....

Dear UMW Sisters,

All doubt has been laid to rest!! We definitely made the right decision about not having a Sweet Repeat Resale this year. After our first Mission Team meeting last week, where we had discussed how we're going to be able to meet our pledge to the Aurora District UMW, I went up to the office. There, Don Dunham remarked how lucky we were that there was no Sweet Repeat this fall – can you imagine trying to run that sale without the use of an elevator?!!!! People would've been hard-pressed to drop off their donations, and shoppers wouldn't have been able to get large items to their cars. So, yes, there is no further doubt in my mind that we made the right decision.

Now, we just have to make that mission money some other way! Wendy Nystrom has very thoughtfully planned a bake sale for Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all of us to bake, bake, and bake some more! We hope to raise several hundred dollars in one morning. I also encourage you to spread the word to your church friends so that they will all come into the parlor and buy a treat or two.

We will continue to have fundraisers at local restaurants. The Home Run Inn in Darien is the place to be on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. You can eat there or carry out, but you must present the flyer that is available on the church website or at the Purchase with a Purpose table.

Speaking of Purchase with a Purpose, that is our long-standing moneymaker for UMW. Please buy gift cards and remind others to do so, too.

Julie

**Miriam Circle—** mostly women of grown children—meet in women's homes  
**Meets at various homes—4th Thursday 12:45pm**

Ten circle members and one guest met on May 22nd in the Oak Trace private dining room for our last meeting before summer. This meeting was a potluck salad luncheon, and everyone enjoyed the delicious variety of salads and desserts contributed by all the members.

Our speaker was Mary Scale, a student at the University of Iowa (and my daughter) who has attended our church her entire life and became a member upon completing the Onward Bound confirmation program eight years ago. Mary is finishing up a double major in English and French at Iowa, and she spent her junior year attending the University of Le Havre in Normandy, France. She spoke to the circle about her experiences during her year living in France - making friends with students from all over Europe, traveling to other parts of France and also to Belgium and Scotland, her rewarding position as an English tutor for two French teens, and the opportunity to attend a church service at her favorite place in France: Notre Dame de Paris. The circle members had many questions for her and thoroughly enjoyed this peek into life as a university student in France.

Garland Cramer, our Christian Personhood leader, was leaving that day for her summer home in Wisconsin and attended just long enough to share a wonderful dessert with all of us. Garland, we hope you've had a delightful summer and look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Our next meeting will be September 25 at 12:45 pm in the Oak Trace private dining room and will be an open discussion among the members about the direction of the circle.

*Co-Circle Coordinator— Frances Stone and Laural Briggs*



**UMW Bake Sale**  
**Sunday, October 12, 2014**  
**9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**  
**In the parlor**

Get your recipes out and watch for more details to be distributed at your circle.

Not in a circle? Contact Wendy Nystrom for directions!

**Mary Elizabeth Circle—**  
 mostly women of grown children—childcare provided upon request  
**Meets in Chapel Hall-4th Wednesday**  
**1:00pm**

May 28th we had our spring luncheon at Oak Trace. Twelve of us attended our last meeting for the season. After lunch we had a short meeting in the parlor. Leah Ostwald spoke to us about the new mentoring ministry through Kids Hope USA in partnership with Kingsley Elementary School in Downers Grove. Leah encouraged us to learn more about the program and become involved as a mentor, a prayer partner or to help supply their toolboxes.

On July 23rd we had a salad lunch in Chapel Hall to catch up on our summer activities. We did not meet in August.

Our next meeting is September 24th. Our program will be given by Curtis Rolfe on the church windows.

*Circle Coordinator—Joan Van Order*

**Rachel Circle**—mostly mother's of young children—childcare always provided  
**Meets in Rm. 213 - 4th Thursday 9:00 am**

Welcome back! Our September meeting will begin a 3 month journey with *Love Does*, a book that invites us to "discover a secretly incredible life in an ordinary world." The author, Bob Goff, is a lawyer and the founder of Restore International, a non profit fighting injustices against children in Uganda and India. His book is a collection of personal stories, light and fun, unique and profound. Bob believes that love doesn't stop at thoughts and feelings, he believes *Love Does*, and in doing so offers us a meaningful chance to make faith simple and real.

*Circle Coordinator— Stacey Ramsey*

**Ruth Circle**—women of all ages—childcare provided upon request  
**Meets in Chapel Hall- 4th Thursday 12:45 pm**

Ruth Circle's May meeting was our potluck luncheon held at the home of circle leader Caroline Bertolino with 13 members in attendance. We shared fellowship and enjoyed the beautiful day from her sunroom. A presentation was given by Leah Ostwald about our church's new mentoring program with Kingsley Elementary School of Downers Grove beginning in the fall school year. This was our last meeting before summer. Our next meeting will be on Thursday September 25th in Chapel Hall. At that time, our president, Julie Stone, will be talking about her experience at the UMW Quadrennial meeting this summer.

*Circle Coordinator— Caroline Bertolino*

**Sarah Circle**—mostly working women—no childcare available  
**Meets in the Room 213—4th Monday 7:00pm**

Instead of meeting at church for our normal circle meeting in May, Sarah circle volunteered at PRC on the 5th Thursday, May 29th. Our members are a caring bunch and come to PRC after working at their day jobs with smiles on their faces ready to help where needed. On June 23rd, Dana Murphy welcomed 8 of us into her home for our annual salad supper. Tasty salads and laughter were shared by all. Hopefully we all enjoyed some relaxation this summer and are ready to help with UMW's various projects this year!

*Circle Coordinator— Lenore Pitstick*

**Stay Connected! Keep in Touch!**

Browse the United Methodist Women website - [www.gbqm-umc.org/umw/](http://www.gbqm-umc.org/umw/)

UMW Mission Resources website: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/resources>

DGFUMC website: <http://www.dgfumc.org>

FUMCUMW website: <http://www.dgfumc.org/fellowship/umw>

UMC General Board of Church and Society Faith in Action website:

<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.2798475/k.7A8F Faith in Action.htm>

Facebook: group is called [United Methodist Women of DGFUMC](#)—find us and invite your friends to join.

Aurora District Facebook group is called [Aurora District UMW—Illinois](#)—find us and ask to join then invite your friends.

## Purchase With A Purpose

Summer saw a slow down in sales at the Purchase With a Purpose table. Apart from our pledges the Purchase With a Purpose gift card program is our major fund raiser to support the work of United Methodist Women. Think about how you can increase your participation in the program and encourage your friends and circle members also.

Try keeping a gas card in your car so that your teen driver doesn't get caught with no money and an empty tank. Have some small denomination fast food cards to give to someone in need or to use yourself! Great American Bagel, KFC, Starbucks and Subway come in \$5 denominations, most others are \$10. The new grocery store in the area, Angelo Caputos, offers gift cards in \$25 and \$100 denominations and they are available to order.

Every Sunday we continue to have Amazon, Home Depot, Jewel, Kohl's, Meijer, Panera Bread, Speedway Gas, Starbuck's, Target, Ulta Cosmetics, Ultra Foods, Walgreens, and Downers Grove Downtown Dollars ready to pick up at the table in the Parlor! Orders will be placed on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month through November.

Many of us are enjoying the convenience of ordering online from home. You do have to pay directly from your checking account as credit cards charge a fee which would take away our small % earned. The cards are still delivered to church with our regular order but you can browse the gift card selection at home and don't need to remember your check book on Sunday morning!

Manna Group has offered us the opportunity to use an APP on our smart phones which will allow us to buy the gift card whilst we are out shopping. If you find yourself at Target, for example, and don't have a gift card, you can use the APP to buy what you need and scan your phone to pay at the checkout. There are a limited number of stores participating, so far, and some of the % earned are less but something is better than nothing! If you are interested in trying this convenient instant gift card system Ina can send you the details of how to set yourself up.

Kohl's is the only merchant that allows customers to pay their charge card bill with gift cards in \$25 (available every week) and \$100 denominations. When you receive your bill, order the cards you need on Sunday so that you'll be in time to pay your bill. You can pay it at the check out as well as customer service!

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser and making a difference in the lives of women and children everywhere.

# Joanna Circle

October 19th  
11:00 a.m.

# Joanna

Young ladies in grades 6th through 12th will come together for snacks, activities, and to be in mission with women, children and youth around the world.

Our initial meeting will be a planning meeting to determine the direction of our new circle!

Chapel  
Hall

**We are  
Mary.**

**We are  
Martha.**

The mission team will present  
"We are Mary. We are Martha"  
based on the March 2014  
*Response* magazine program.  
Come to enjoy some great  
salads and some riveting  
entertainment.

- Ruth and Mary Elizabeth Circles will be providing a salad luncheon and desserts
- Spend some social time with your UMW sisters

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**Thursday, October 9, 2014**

**12:00—2:00 p.m.**

**Chapel Hall at the First United Methodist Church**



**God is good all the time—**  
**All the time God is good**

- Elizabeth Breese's son doing well—but continued healing prayers are appreciated
- Elizabeth Breese's grandma needs healing prayers.
- Julie Stone's sister needs healing prayers.
- LeAlice Briggs' daughter needs healing prayers.
- Rebecca Paulsen's daughter needs healing prayers.
- Garland and Frances Stone celebrated 65 years of wedding bliss on 9/11/2014!
- Prayers for everyone in the world that they

**PWP Rotation**

September—Ruth  
 October—Mary Elizabeth  
 November—Rachel  
 December—Sarah

UMW General Meeting  
 Thursday, October 9, 2014  
 12:00 p.m. in Chapel Hall

Salad luncheon and program  
 "We are Mary. We are Martha"

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**  
**(mark your CALENDARS!)**

Sept. 27	Aurora District Fall Event First UMC Lombard	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 2	Leadership Team	9:00 a.m.
Oct. 9	General Meeting	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	Bake Sale	9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Oct. 22	Homeless Care Packages	6:00 p.m.
Nov. 6	Leadership Team	9:00 a.m.