

MARY- MARTHA CIRCLE --- January 9 Meeting

Mary-Martha (MM) is a Circle of United Methodist Women (UMW) who meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month at 2:00 in the New Room. The first meeting of the new year was held on January 9. Eleven members, including Drema Beverley, who is recovering from shoulder surgery, were present.

One of our Mary-Martha traditions, during the season of celebrating the birth of Christ, has been the dramatic reading of "The Women of Christmas," a short play which features some of the women who came into Mary's life shortly before, during, and after the birth of Jesus---a take on the caring and concerns women have for one another. The play itself places an emphasis on all parts of our UMW's purpose, but most especially on "developing a creative, supportive fellowship."

Following the reading, cards were signed to be sent to our shut ins and prayer was lifted up for those for whom concerns had been expressed.

Our 2019 sunshine fund in the amount of \$180 was divided equally between two mission projects: the **Gabriel Project** and **Heart and Hand**, with each receiving \$90. This fund is added to at each MM meeting when "the sunshine box" is passed around and members place any amount they wish to in the box.

The programs, for the past several months, have been taken from the book 50 Women Every Christian Should Know by Michelle DeRushan. Each time a program is given, we are thankful that these outstanding women have left us such a strong legacy of courage and faith. (Let's hear it for the girls)! A copy of this book has been purchased and signed by each attendee and will be presented to Pat Joseph, a longtime member of Mary-Martha circle, who is confined to home but still likes to keep up with Circle happenings.

Becky Britton presented this month's program on **Sojourner Truth**, a slave during the 1800's, who, even though she could not read or write, had heard stories of Jesus at camp meetings and very aptly and ably preached and spread the word. She authored books by dictating them to one who wrote them out for her. At 6' tall and having a low voice, she was sometimes asked to prove she was a female; she didn't hesitate to undress and remove all doubt finishing off the occasion by saying, "Ain't I a woman?" She was an advocate for the abolishment of slavery, a seeker of truth and justice.

The meeting ended with the reciting of the Purpose of the United Methodist Women: *"The 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."*

The next meeting of Mary-Martha Circle will be on Thursday, February 6. Any and all interested ladies are invited to join us. We would very much like to widen our circle.