

United Methodist Women's News

By

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The year 2018 is gone and 2019 is here. What will we do with it? It is a chance to look at what we thought we would do last year and maybe accomplish it with this "second chance." There are so many opportunities around us to be of service to others in our church and in our community. As we enter 2019 let us, as women of St. Marks, as a member of UMW or not, be aware of where we can experience the joy of being in service to others and be sure to take time to replenish ourselves spiritually.

We are delighted to have Stefanie Harris, Angela Jones and Cora Fisher serving on our St. Marks United Methodist Women's Leadership Team. Stefanie is our Spiritual Growth leader, Angela is Secretary of Program Resources, and Cora is Membership & Nurture Outreach Coordinator. And, we sincerely thank the following for agreeing to serve on the Nomination Committee, which is a big responsibility: Alice Anne Robertson, Chair; Class of 2019; Patty Sims and Carole Cline, Class of 2020; Martha Hill and Sue Gallagher; Class of 2021: Miranda Nabors and Emily Papadopoulos.

Cora Fisher is working on our 2019 United Methodist Women's Year Book. She is currently gathering all the information that needs to go in it. If you have last year's copy and note any corrections that need to be made be sure to let Cora know.

Our UMW Treasurer Anita Ellis, reports that we have 24 pledges so far to UMW for the year 2019. If you did not receive a pledge card and need one, please contact Anita. Remember, no pledge is too small. If you attend the Unit Meetings you should always receive a financial report. **At the Unit Meeting in March, those attending will approve the budget for our St. Marks UMW for the year 2019.** As always, the approved budget will appear in our UMW Year Book.

United Methodist Women will be involved in the Souperbowl, which is scheduled for February 3. Great soups and desserts will be served and as always an auction will be held. All monies raised will go for a good cause. Check our church bulletins for details.

United Methodist Women's Spiritual Growth Retreat is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 22-23 at Cedar Lakes. For more information and reservation forms see Becky Britton or Margaret Waybright.

As many of you know, United Methodist Women, along with other denominations, is connected to Church Women United. I hope many of you will plan to attend one or more of the following "Celebrations" sponsored by Church Women United. I always have information and tickets to the luncheons. Time and places will be announced .

World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 1 (receiving layette items); **May Friendship Day**, Friday, May 3 (fellowship of Least Coin (pennies) & dental health kits); **Human Relations Celebration**, September 13; **World Community Day**, November 1. Luncheons are usually \$8.00, but attendance is not required.

Did you know that **JANUARY** was named for the Roman God Janus, protector of gates and doorways? Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future. (*The Old Farmer's 2019 Almanac.*)

Speaking of January, I heard this poem "**Snow Flakes**" by *Thomas Vance Cheney* from his 1897 volume "Out of Silence" sung and it gave me a new look at snowflakes.

Falling all the night-time,
Falling all the day,
Silence into silence,
From the far-away;

Stilly host un-numbered,
All the night and day,
Falling, falling, falling,
From the far-away,--

Never came like glory
To the fields and trees,
Never summer blossoms,
Thick and white as these.

To the dear old places
Winging night and day,
Follow, follow, follow,
Fold them soft away;

Folding, folding, folding,
Fold the world away,
Souls of flowers drifting
Down the winter day.

(*Stilly: calm, hushed, peaceful*)

An Irish Blessing: *May God grant you always ... A sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you, a sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you. Laughter to cheer you. Faithful friends near you. And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you."*