

The Tide

Los Rios UMW District Newsletter



September 2019 2020

Los Rios District Celebration September 21, 2019

The Celebration on Saturday, September 21 was fantastic!

Rev. Kris Marshall received rave reviews and the Wayfair UMC hosted us with grace, warmth, and great food! It was a lovely day.

Take a look at the pictures in the gallery on the website and, if you have some we could post, please send them to me.

Many thanks to the group pulling together all the details of the day. Their behind-the-scenes work was evident in the success of the event.

Comments from the Attendees Included:

"Pastor Kris Speaker was wonderful very insightful. Gave us a lot to think about. Address back at our church UMW

group.

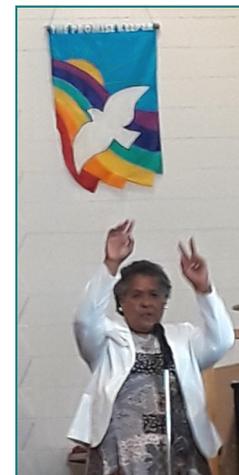
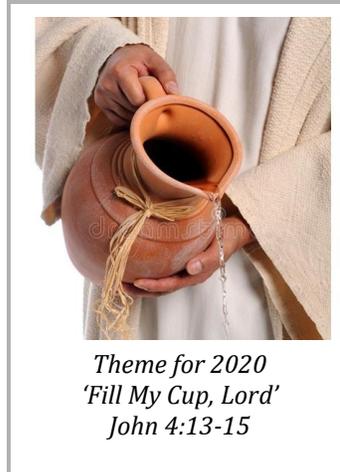
"It was wonderful joyful, experience of bonding and strengthening our sisterhood of grace.

The speaker was outstanding, food delicious and I'm leaving with my spirit filled."

"Speaker fantastic very inspiration on life of today - Jesus is the same, yesterday today and forever."

"UMW were excellent hosts and the best location."

"The music was up lifting, great pianist."





Spiritual Growth Leader - Rosa Washington-Olson

Rosa offered an thoughtful and instructive call to action for the Los Rios District UMW. Following is a reprint of her remarks.

Today, some of you came here having driven over two hours or more and some just a short distance. But no matter how far or how close by, we've all come to be Refreshed, Restored, Revived, and Rejuvenated by the source of life, "That Life Giving Water."

Last quadrennium we were bridges, this quadrennium we are Rivers. Those bridges took us over rivers only to bring us to where God had in mind a Master Plan for us.

I'd like to use the scripture from Psalms 137 that says, "By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered thee O Zion." The Israelites had been captured and were longing to be back home. As Unite Methodist Women, we aren't allowed to sit down and weep and long for the past. We are now a district of Rivers with many tributaries, reaching new ideas, new churches, new possibilities, with new leadership.

Research has shown that two of the two most prolific uses of Rivers are Power Generation and Irrigation. You can't find two better definitions to define the work of the United Methodist Women.

Allegorically, we water the crops of many lives through health care, education, clean water in other countries, and the list goes on. In other words, we are power generators, irrigators, and power brokers.

Jeremiah 17: 7-8 says, "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a Riverbank with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long month of Drought. Their leaves stay green and they never stop producing fruit." What a beautiful scripture to describe the work of the new Los Rios District. We are and will continue to be powerful Rivers.



Installation of District Officers

Conference UMW President, Marlene Ward, presided over the installation of officers for the Los Rios District. The group photo below shows the officers for 2019-2020. Officers are listed under the 'Leadership' tab above.



Front Row: Anne Bradeen, Rosa Washington-Olson, Linda Schade, Karen Ray, Veronica Qarau, Adi Mere Nabou, Linda Wright, Judie Streeter, Carol Kremer, Marlene Ward Back Row: Shigeko Shibata, Jan Mathis



Featured Speaker: Rev. Kris Marshall

Rev. Kris presented a talk filled with humor and insights. She sent us away with lots to think about. Rev. Kris also shared a powerful prayer that is a 'must read' for everyone.

It is reprinted below with her permission.

In this world, nothing is created,
and nothing is destroyed.

That means that everything we see,
everything we are,
everything we touch,
are things that have become
through the disorganization,
reorganization,
and reconfiguration
of all that has ever been,
and all that will ever be.

Nothing is lost. Nothing is gained.

The thing we need most for survival is water.
But this water is not new.

This is the water that the Spirit hovered over in the beginning.
This is the water that flowed through the garden where God meandered with her beloveds.
This is the water that parted so slaves could walk free.
This is the water that flowed past a late night wrestling match, when a man who had been running from himself was finally able to claim his true name and learn another, and a people who had been torn from themselves cried to their God.
In fact, this is the water that wept from their eyes.

This is the water that poured from a rock in the desert as God's provision,
This is the water that the flocks were led by as God's peace.
This is the water that broke in a woman's body in Bethlehem,
The water that ushered in God's very presence with us.
Water is a beautiful image.

But it can be terrifying, too.
Desert people knew this.
They had a love/hate relationship with water,
With its scarcity, with its power.
Storms could threaten lives,
they could terrify.
In particularly fierce moments,
they called God the Storm-Rider.

People here in the Central Valley also know how powerful and destructive water can be.

We use this water as a symbol in our churches of the love of God:
Powerful, ever-present, and absolutely prerequisite for life.

This is the water we bless when we say we know the power of Christ,
And when we claim our own ability and agency to stand against evil, injustice, and oppression, in whatever forms they present themselves.
Because in our baptism, in the ever presence of the water, of God's love,
Which we cannot earn or create or destroy,
There is also a call.

This is the water on the raging sea, when Jesus called to us,
When Jesus called us to step out of the safety of our boats
And join him even in the heart of the storm.

Many of us have come from stormy places, calm places, rocky places, shallow places... and many of us are heading right back into the hurricane.
Maybe this gathering has been like the eye for us – a moment of peace and calm.
Maybe the storm is still fuming in our minds and hearts.

The last action of our UMW program is to bless the water, to bless one another,
As we head back into our respective rivers.
Some of us will head to church meetings, where the water rolls sluggishly by, mimicking the patient seasons of the church.





Rev. Kris Marshall—Cont'd

Some of us will head to our homes, our churches, our workplaces, where tears of joy and pain and loss are part of the rhythm of life, but can rock our foundations.

Some of us will head to calm waters, but we know the rapids are still coming. We'll see some of them on the horizon, and others may surprise us.

Some of us will watch the water lap against the rafts, against the shores, and will feel the joy rumbling up like a deep river chuckle.

Whatever water you're stepping out into, may you hear the call of the one who saves,

The one who heals,

The one who cares,

The one who calls out,

The one who cannot be separated from us

by anything we've done or anything anyone else has done to us.

May this water bless you to step out,

To sing,

And sink, and swim,

And rise again.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kris



LOS RIOS IN ACTION - Reports from Local UMW Units

Please take time to read these submissions on work being done in the local UMW units. This is a way to share where people are focusing their efforts, celebrate their work, and to gain new ideas for how your unit can serve. If you didn't have time to send your report, please send it to me at schade932lls@att.net and I'll add it to the newsletter.



Davis UMW

Here are the things we did and are doing at Davis UMC:

1. Working with the Board of Supervisors of Yolo County to vote on the office of Refugee Resettlement Contract as to how to best house and educate refugees.

2. Our Social Justice Task Force meets monthly to deal with the issues of Racial Injustices and recently met at the capitol with Senator Dodd and Representative Aguiar-Curry.

3. Sunday Morning Forum with speakers on the topic of "what we need to do to support our Transgender Siblings".

4. Each Third Sunday between services we sponsor Letter Writing to our legislatures concerning issues of Racism and Injustices.

5. Studying the book The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton about a Black man on death row for 30 years for a crime he didn't commit.



FIRST UMC IN NAPA

Racial Justice (#7)

96 Postcards were sent to Wendy's seeking support for farm workers - working conditions and safety

*December 2018, public showing of film "13th". UMW Lead

Followed by discussions on racial injustice, mass incarceration, and brutality

*Immigration Program October 2018 Unit meeting. Immigration, Sanctuary, Compassion, Hospitality. Discussion lead by 2 UMW members and committee on our church becoming a Sanctuary.

Presented history of immigration policies, UMW and hospitality, ACLU information, our church journey to Sanctuary.

Mission Project (#15)

Days for Girls, 2 sewing days to put together reusable menstrual pads, eventually sent to girls

in Ethiopia.

*Held meeting/tea with Kathrine Parker, missionary. Financial support given.

*June 2019, UMW raised money for rice packaging event, Packaged over 12,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger which went to the Philippines. End Hunger 2030.

Children (#16)

Sierra Service Youth, financial and participation in sending 25 Youth to 2 weeks of Sierra Service mission work on Indian Reservations.

Leadership support in local Girl Scout Troop #11025

Participate in Trunk for Treat, for local Napa kids at Halloween.

January 2019, UMW members attended community school meeting on identifying kids at risk and adult mentoring in the Napa School District.

UMW on committee with Youth Minister to strengthen children's ministries in Napa.



St. Mark's - Sacramento

Answers to Mission Today for September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019

25. Used prayer calendar at each general meeting
26. Made and met our pledge to mission
27. Added least two new members to our roll.
28. Have at least two members who subscribe to *Response* magazine.
29. Used two programs from the Program Book.
30. The NOW Circle meets monthly to learn about the mission studies for the year.
31. Sadly, although our church as a whole has studied racial justice, UMW has not had any separate efforts. We did have a general meeting on the topic of the school to prison pipeline.
32. More than two members attended district annual meetings
33. Not acted on
34. At least five attended Mission u this summer and will report back to the group.
35. Email messages were sent to several persons listed in the Prayer Calendar.
36. No participation in Women's Action Network noted.



Rio Linda / Elverta Parish



Racial Justice (#7)

We implemented the Charter for Racial Justice Policies by participating in the planning and by attending a community interdenominational Women's Retreat led by a laywoman from a large downtown Sacramento ethnic congregation.

Mission Today (#12)

One of our members receives alerts from the Women's Action Network and forwards them on to members.

Mission Today (#15)

We have one woman who is an official volunteer with the Turning Point Mental Health Crisis Program near our church.

We have made a total of 35 fleece nap blankets for the residents and packaged them with personal items this year.

7 residents attended a Christmas Party put on by the UMW.

Mission Today (#16)

One member has volunteered for the past 5 years with the children's program at a local Celebrate Recovery Ministry sponsored by another church.

We continue to advocate for women and their unborn children by attending legislative hearings and writing letters to legislators and the governor regarding SB24. One woman attended the Califor-

nia Pro Life rally in San Francisco and she attends the sidewalk prayer vigil in front of a local abortion clinic.

The UMW maintains a table in the Narthex with information from the National Alliance for Mental Illness regarding destigmatizing mental illness.

As the Rio Linda Elverta Parish, the women had fund raising dinner that we called "Happy Feet". We were able to raise almost \$800 for the necessary surgical repair and orthopedic shoes for children in Nepal with club feet and for Katherine Parker's mission support. We baked 12 dozen cookies for the Kairos Ministry at Folsom prison.

We familiarized ourselves with the North Sacramento Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART) and its plan to support families in the Robla School District who are living out of their cars. Their goal is to provide the families with safe overnight parking this winter at a local church.

With 3 other Rio Linda/Elverta Churches, we continue to provide a free Community Meal once a month. We also helped organize and participated in the first Community Christian Women's Weekend Retreat which was attended by women from 5 local churches.

Mission Today (#20)

We had one program dedicated to a review of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.



Byron UMW

Their small UMW meets quarterly. They meet to discuss a book from the UMW list and they bring with them to each meeting items from the wish list for the Shepherd's Gate Battered Women's Shelter.

Los Rios District Website

www.losriosumw.org

Contains information on Newsletters, leadership contact information, and a place to submit comments and concerns.