FROM YOUR PRESIDENT.....

Easter season or March madness?

This is a busy season, and it's only March! I find myself increasingly having to choose between things I'm obligated to do and things I want to do. However, the Lenten services at Belin are my top priority. They are excellent. They settle me down and remind me what's really important. I'm choosing Easter season over March madness - want to join me?

Blessings,
Sue

The UMW Book Conversations

The Belin UMW Reading Program’s “The UMW Book Conversations” begin Thursday, April 28, 10:00 AM in the Family Life Center - Belin UMC Library.

This informal discussion group provides an opportunity for Belin UMW members (as well as other interested church women) to gather and share their UMW book reading experiences. Please join me on April 28, for this first of four one-hour UMW book conversations during 2016. Together we will learn and exchange smiles!

(Diane Lewis, Belin UMW Resource Secretary, (843-215-6724))
UMW Fund Raiser:  
*Design and Purchase Approved*

Recognize this beautiful church? Yes, this is the final design of the shelf sitter, or wooden replica, of Belin Memorial United Methodist Church. The back of the plaque has the history of our church. UMW members will sell these to raise funds for UMW missions and for donations to the church. Details will come at your circle meetings. Price is to be determined. We anticipate heavy sales!

Thank you, **Sue Carriero**, for envisioning this project and seeing through its approval, design, and ordering details!
A COMMUNITY OF READERS
BELIN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Remember: The Belin Church UMW Reading Program 2016 Goal:
Each UMW member reads at least one book from the UMW Book Cart
by September 30, 2016.

The month of March brings us the roar of the wind (the Lion) as well as the calmness of a
gentle breeze (the Lamb). The Easter season brings bunnies hopping and children smiles as
they hunt for Easter eggs among the budding blossoms and greens. How wonderful to
experience spring!!

As the beginning of spring weather reawakens all of us spiritually, let us sit and share with
the younger members of our families books that remind us of the many ways the Lord
brings joy to our lives through our faith. Psalm 16:11 “In Your presence there is fullness of
joy.”

TOPICS YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ ABOUT:

(Nurturing for Community - Children): Before We Eat: From Farm to Table by Pat Brisson
A Book for Children -- As a family sits down to enjoy a meal, thoughts of those who provide the food, from
farmers who plant and tend seeds and animals to store clerks who sell groceries, come to mind and we are
grateful.

(Nurturing for Community - Youth): CRAZY by Linda Vigen Phillips
A Book for Young Readers -- Fifteen-year old Laura is a typical teenager navigating her way through classes,
friendships; however, she is carrying around a secret -- her mother is suffering from mental illness.

(Spiritual Growth - You): Key United Methodist Beliefs by William J. Abraham and David F. Watson
Deepen your faith as you examine how the core Methodist beliefs connect to the life and ministry of John
Wesley.

To learn more about the reading plan options pick-up a reading program brochure from the book cart or
contact Diane Lewis, Belin UMW Resource Secretary (843-215-6724 or DianeLewis@sccoast.net).

Diane Lewis
Nan McCurdy is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries. She and her missionary husband, Miguel Mairena, are serving as interpreters as Mission Advocates for the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church.

Nan served the people of Nicaragua as a missionary from 1985 to 2014. She and Miguel most recently worked for some 15 years with youth and children through the Women and Community Association in San Francisco Libre.

Nan observes. “Our worth and well-being are so wrapped up in what we have, in contrast to people in countries like Nicaragua who have nothing but their faith.” Sell all your things, give to the poor and follow me’—this is Christ’s most difficult message for us as US Christians.”

Nan is a very grateful to be a breast cancer survivor for 10+ years. She holds degrees in biology, ecology, and pharmacy, and has done extensive non-degree studies in gender in the fields of development and community development.

Birthday: March 16  
Address: General Board of Global Ministries The United Methodist Church  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 1011
Belin United Methodist Women
Minutes, Board Meeting
February 24, 2016

The UMW Board met in the Family Life Center at 1:30 PM. Attending: President Sue Walters, Vise President Susan Malechefski, Treasurer Dottie Burnham, Secretary Jo Bendick, Frances Wilson Circle chairs Sue Carreiro and Nancy Heinz, Grace Circle chair Peg Otterberg, Miracle Seekers Circle chair Iva Coker, and Resource chair Diane Lewis.

Sue Carreiro led a devotion on *The Dogwood Blossom* and brought a lovely handmade blossom to share.

Dottie Burnham asked for travel prayers when they travel to NY for her mother’s funeral, and Peg Otterberg asked for prayer for a liver biopsy test she is to undergo. We also prayed for the two funerals scheduled for the day.

Secretary’s Report Minutes from January’s meeting were read and approved.

**Resource Secretary’s Report** - Diane Lewis purchased UMW stationary to use for “thank you,” etc. She will be attending circles in March with the mobile book cart to encourage each to participate in the UMW Reading Program. On April 28, she will have a “book conversation time” for more involvement in the reading program.

**Circle Reports**

Frances Wilson Circle will be starting a new Bible study of *21 Most Effective Prayers in the Bible*. The Circle delivered clothes to Sarah’s Closet.

Miracle Seekers Circle had an explanation of the pledges at their meeting and are continuing with their study of *Bad Girls of the Bible* and planned their Lenten Lunch.

Grace circle is working on the books for BOI and their Lenten lunch plans.

**Old Business** - Sue Carreiro gave an update on the wooden church fundraiser and asked for $4,250 for set up and an order of 500. It was decided to sell them at the *Blessing of the Inlet* under the Bake Sale tent. We will set up a separate table and cashier for them.

New name badges have been ordered for the board members and circle leaders, but have not come in yet.

**New Business** - Sue Carreiro made a motion and Dottie Burnham seconded to not make a donation to the Daddy/Daughter Dance this year.

A copy of the duties of officers from the UMW Handbook was passed out for each of us to review. Final arrangements to meet at the Family Life Center for the Cluster meeting in Georgetown were made. Betty Mar asked for information for the News & Notes newsletter to be e mailed to her.

President Sue Walters closed us with prayer and our benediction.

Closing: “May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another.”

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 23, 1:30 PM in Family Life Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Bendick, Secretary
2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 28............................ UMW Book Conversations, 10:00 AM, FLC
May 7 ............................. Blessing of the Inlet, Belin UMC Campus
May 21 .............................. Come Together, Be Together, TBD
August 1 - 5 .................... Preparation for Belin UMW Yard Sale, FLC
August 6 ............................ Belin UMW Yard Sale, FLC
September 9 - 11............. Tri-District Retreat, Springmaid Resort, MB
November 5 ...................... BBQ, Bazaar, and Bake Sale, FLC
October 8 ............................. District Annual Meeting
October 21 - 22 ............... Conference Annual Meeting, Bethany UMC, Summerville
December 3 .......................... UMW Annual Christmas Luncheon, Austin’s Ocean One, Litchfield Inn, P.I.

CIRCLE NOTES

FRANCES WILSON CIRCLE met on Monday, March 14, in the Family Life Center. We discussed the Lenten luncheon we will be serving on March 16. The menu is vegetable soup, hoagies, and homemade deserts.

Diane Lewis met with us to talk about the UMW reading program as well as the book discussion group that will be meeting quarterly starting in April.

Our next meeting will be on April 11, 10:00 AM. Our mission will be Baby Express. Members are asked to bring supplies and clothing for infants through five-year olds. We will begin our new Bible study and make plans for our strawberry booth at the Blessing of the Inlet. All ladies are cordially welcome to join our meetings.

Circle co-leaders: Sue Carreiro (843-357-3533) and Nancy Heintz (843-947-0873)

GRACE CIRCLE met March 7, at the home of Rosemary Hill where we discussed the preparation of collecting books for the Blessing of the Inlet. We also discussed hosting the March 23, Lenten luncheon. Our menu is chicken corn chowder, cornbread, Caesar salad, and brownies and cookies for dessert.

Our next meeting is on Monday, April 4 at 6:00 PM at the home of Susan Payne.

Circle leader: Peg Otterberg (843-651-2688)

MIRACLE SEEKERS CIRCLE met Tuesday, March 1, in the Family Life Center. After a short business meeting Diane Lewis, Resource Secretary for UMW, gave an interesting talk about the Book Cart. She urged the ladies to take advantage of the excellent Christian books available to all. Liz Barber then gave out assignments for the preparation of the Lenten luncheon on March 9. Refreshments were served by Susan Malachefski and Dottie Burnham.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 6:00 PM in the Family Life Center. We will continue our study of Bad Girls of the Bible, Chapter 9. Guests are always welcome to join our meeting for fun and fellowship.

UMW OFFICERS

President ............................................................ Sue Walters  (843-357-4777)
Vice President ................................. Susan Malachefski  (843-215-5369)
Secretary ................................................................. Jo Bendick  (843-215-7097)
Treasurer ................................................................. Dottie Burnham  (803-261-7354)
Resources Secretary ............................... Diane Lewis  (843-215-6724)
Newsletter ...... Betty Mar Little (843-651-4422) / Fran Wesner (843-236-2982)

Easter is an important celebration for Christians. This is the day when Jesus Christ has resurrected. Easter Sunday is one of the most important parts of Christian faith. It promises new hope, new joy and new aspirations. Easter Sunday also marks the end of the Lent season (which starts from Ash Wednesday). During the Lent season, fasting, spiritual discipline, and repentance are observed. At the end of this season, there will be a celebration as it’s believed that Jesus Christ has risen.

Celebrate this Easter with a heart filled with peace, joy and cheer!

Have a Blessed Easter!
UMW Officers

News and Notes is an informal UMW newsletter and is distributed the 15th of each month. Deadline to submit your Circle information/pictures is the 9th and should be emailed to Fran Wesner (franza6@aol.com) or Betty Mar Little (bmlittle2@aol.com).