

WINTER 2022
WIND CHIME
WYOMING + ONE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

It has been a while since the last Wind Chime newsletter! I hope everyone had a good Holiday Season. It appears winter has finally arrived.

Coming events:

Mission U registration is open. The study is "Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action". Register online through mtnskyumw.org. It will meet by Zoom on each Sunday beginning February 6 - 27 from 2-4:30 p.m. MT.

The next Mission U study will start in July and is titled "Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship"

We decided it might be a good idea to refresh your memories of who your District Officers are.



Pictured above are Judy Christensen, Judy Eicher, Sidney Walter, and Barb Harris.

Judy Christensen of Cheyenne, Wyoming is your President.

Barb Harris of Cheyenne, Wyoming is your Vice President. Barbara Lewellyn Harris was born and raised in Clarion, Iowa, where most of her extended family had lived for many years.

She was an only child of parents who spent much time working for the Presbyterian Church and many community organizations. They instilled the values of being well educated, being well organized, and being active in community service.

After college at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, she worked for three years as a legal secretary for a firm that specialized in estates and income tax. She then took a vacation to Cheyenne where her friends introduced her to Bill Harris, an Air Force Lieutenant. Bill is the son of a Methodist minister who served in New Mexico and Oklahoma. They dated for a year, mostly by mail, before marrying in 1965.

They were stationed at March AFB in Riverside, California, for a year and a half. The following year Barb went back home to help her parents run their business, while Bill had a remote tour on an island west of Nome, Alaska. While she was in Iowa, she worked tax season for a local insurance company.

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Bill decided to start his civilian life back again in Cheyenne with Civil Engineering at Warren AFB. Barb wasn't used to not having a job, so she worked for 7 or 8 tax seasons at H & R Block. As the children got older, she started taking temp jobs. She was working part-time often at General Motors Acceptance Corporation and finally was able to get a full-time job there. She was in the accounting department for over 25 years, until they decided to close the local office.

They have 2 children, Penny and Kristopher, and 5 grandchildren. The grandchildren range from 15-26. All are currently living in the Denver area.

Barb and Bill have been very active at First UMC Cheyenne for 50 years now, serving on most of the committees for at least one term. Barb has been Financial Secretary and head cashier for our Frontier Days meals since retiring in 1998. Bill spent many years behind the video camera and making tapes and DVD's recording important events at the church. They have been actively involved in several major projects of the church.

UMW also started being a bigger opportunity about 2000. She has been local treasurer for 13 years, WYNECO district secretary, Conference registrar for Spiritual Life Retreat 2 years, WYO + 1 treasurer for 6 years. The last three years she has been local vice president. She has also been secretary/treasurer for many years for the local and regional groups of Antique Automobile Club of America and registrar for several of their national conventions. She is starting her fourth year as an AARP/VITA free tax preparer for seniors.

Sydney Ruth Walter of Laramie, Wyoming is your secretary.

Judy Eicher of Cheyenne, Wyoming is your Correspondence Coordinator. Judy was born and raised in Kansas. She moved to Cheyenne in 1977 so is almost a native. Judy has been an active member of UMW since the early 1980's. Her interests are in missions and promoting UMW. Her offices in the local unit include President and Vice President. She has also served as Coordinator of Member Nurture and Outreach, Education and Interpretation, Missions which is now Social Action, and as the Reception and Special Dinner chair.

Grace United Methodist Church United Methodist Women started meeting in person in the late spring. During the summer months we held coffees just to talk and get to know one another better. In September we held a tea party for Mikel Bechtold, wife of Pastor Zach Bechtold, and their daughters. It was a lovely time for all who attended.

In November we enjoyed listening to Eva Estorga, director of St. Joseph's Food Pantry as guest speaker. We brought food items to give to St. Joseph's Food Pantry. Also, we decided on a new time for our monthly meetings and beginning in January, we will meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.

December's meeting was a fun, friendship-catchup and informative time. Grace For Two Brothers was our program, as this was also our mission-donation for 2021. *(If you are interested in learning more about Grace for Two Brothers and what we can do to help, please get in touch with Kathy Orr. Wyoming ranks #1 for number of suicides per capita.)*

The 2022 Officers were inducted by Martie Curl.
Kathy Orr: President,
Linda Bogart: Vice President,

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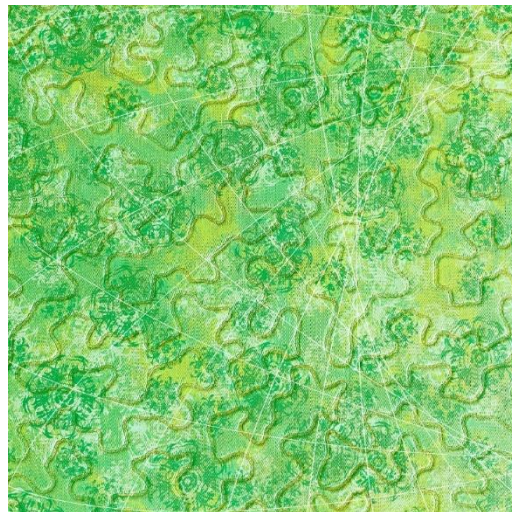
Karen Martin Esquibel: Secretary,
Mary Aughe: Treasurer,
Mavis Earnshaw: Hospitality-Bereavement Coord.,
Michelle Aldrich and Mary Lou Marcum: Nominations,
Martie Curl: Past President and Pastor Zach: Member-at-Large.

Martie Curl received the 2021 Special Mission Recognition Award for her two years of hard work keeping our ladies connected, informed, and working together. (Sometimes by Zoom!!)

Other projects during this season included: collecting items for Family Promise stockings, decorating Grace Hall, collecting for, and making holiday boxes for our at-home GUMC members, group Christmas messages and devotions, joining in the Christmas caroling, preparing meals for Family Promise, following the Calendar of Kindness, and visiting other church's UMW groups.

Grace UMW continues to be busy in 2022 with a fun and hopefully successful Jewelry and Accessory Sale in February.

Planning of the upcoming **Rally for Women's Empowerment and the Elimination of Domestic Violence** will be **January 18, 5:45 p.m. in the Upper Room**. Mark your calendar for this event on Saturday, March 5^{th, 2022}, with more details to follow.



Don't plan it all. Let life
surprise you a little.

~
Julia Alvarez

District Finances for 2021

I want to thank all the units and their treasurers who supported the district in making their Pledge to Mission for 2021. I was concerned until the end of the year that we would fall short by several thousand dollars—but you stepped up, Praise the Lord. It's been a rough couple of years, and I pray that you can

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all manage to hang on, maybe even find some new members to help, or merge some activities with other neighbor units. Cheyenne has had some success at that.

We had pledged \$18,500 as a District and I received and sent on to Conference Treasurer \$18,799.30 in the Five Levels of Giving: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. I also passed on designated giving: Call to Prayer and Self Denial, A Brighter Future for Children, UMCOR, Redbird Mission, Warren Village and Legacy 150 for \$2,173.43.

We had 15 active units and received contributions from 12 of those units. Seven units paid all of their Pledge to Mission: Casper Christ, Cheyenne First, Cheyenne Grace, Douglas, Laramie, Pine Bluffs, Rock Springs. The Star Awards this year for giving to all five levels of giving will be presented at our annual meeting in June. A 5 Star to Casper First and a 6 Star for also increasing their pledge in 2021 to Cheyenne First and Pine Bluffs.

P.S. We are looking for a new District Treasurer. I have served my 6-year limit. The job can be done by a non-bookkeeper, attention to detail is the biggest asset. She will be elected in June but keep the books starting next January. The job is easier if you have some computer experience (a computer comes with the job) and have an internet and printer. There is some of the work that requires Quick Books. I am more than happy to give some in-person training during this year. There will be a few Zoom meetings of both the District Officers and the Conference Finance Committee. The 2 Conference Treasurers I have worked with have been very good at helping solve problems. These last 3 years have required very little travel. Barb Harris 307-631-0559

Cheyenne First Stitch in Time group

For several years, we have had a group of UMW ladies who like to sew. At first, we just listed a person to contact for church projects (like altar vestments) as needed. Then we remodeled our building and needed some sheer curtains in 2 large meeting rooms in the basement. We gathered in about 10 ladies who came to the church for about 3 days to measure, sew and hang the curtains. The next day there was some catastrophe with the heating system that flooded the basement. The insurance company got in a disaster team which proceeded to take down our "contaminated" curtains and throw them away! So--we started over.

We tried three times to get a group that would meet on a monthly basis. In 2019 we had a few machines loaned or donated to us and asked for a Sunday school room to store our machines and supplies. We brought up our stash of donated materials and organized it in the room.

We were requested to keep a local nursing home supplied with cheerful pocketed bags to hang on walkers. We delivered 20 in March 2019. We continued making the walker bags and delivered 205 to 9 agencies in town in September 2020. We are still working to deliver 50 more requests.

Our unit had begun planning to host the 2020 Conference Annual Meeting. For Ubuntu projects we wanted one activity for those who didn't want to travel to another site. One of our members was a member of Zonta Club, and they have a project of making draw string bags and filling them with clothing and hygiene items to donate to the hospital for abuse victims. We decided to start making those bags

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and make plans to turn it into an Ubuntu project at the meeting. We had one of the Zonta Hope Bag ladies (also a UMW member at Cheyenne Grace) come join us in the planning. We would ask all the ladies who attended annual meeting to make donations for the bag contents. The Ubuntu team would join us in sewing and get a little lesson on how they could set up this type of project in their community. Both 2020 and 2021 annual meetings were held online only, but we decided to make a bunch of bags to donate anyway. In October 2020 we presented over 100 bags to the Zonta hospital project and about 50 smaller bags with a stuffed toy to the police department for children's crisis.

Next project, place mats with a pocket to hold napkin and silverware. These were taken in April 2021 to Meals on Wheels so that each client could have one to keep at home. We took 200 first and have taken 50 more a couple of times as their clients are increasing.

In August 2021 we delivered many tiny soft pillows for the cancer center to give patients to protect the area where ports are installed. So far, we have delivered about 200.

Next project is lap blankets that fit in wheelchairs. We're giving to a new memory care facility first.



I would really like to receive your stories about what your Units are doing. Please send articles and pictures to judyeicher@gmail.com for future issues of the Wind Chime.

I know the UMW in Douglas have a history of making pies. When did it start? How many pies do you prepare each year?

Wishing you a blessed and fun year!

Judy