



news u can use...

from and for the women at pumc

march/april 2011

umw is about nurturing women, youth, and children

Warm greetings to everyone! ... from our UMW president- Beverly Bizzell

By now we are well into 2011 enough time to have broken at least a couple of those New Year resolutions. As we look forward to warmer weather and all the joy and beauty that comes with Spring it is also a time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives.



On February 15th our second 'Chicks and Chili' event was held with over 30 in attendance. Our guest speaker was Carolyn Gurley of Page UMC in Aberdeen. I was truly inspired by Carolyn's story of answering a call to reach out and help those in need in her community. Carolyn spearheaded the effort to start a soup kitchen (Martha's Place) out of her church. The volunteers are serving much more than meals. They are truly ministering to human needs - both physical and spiritual. Not only do they offer a hot meal but provide take home bag lunches, a clothes closet, health kits and most importantly the offering of themselves to listen, talk and pray with those in need. The seed that Carolyn planted is truly blooming and bearing fruit!

Many of you may not be aware that each year the United Methodist Women set three "priority issues" for the organization to focus on. The intent is that through varying events and efforts we are to help raise awareness levels within our church and community. This year our three priority issues are:

- 1) Environment
- 2) Domestic Violence (see related article on page 12)
- 3) Human Trafficking (see related article on page 10 and 11)

I recently attended a Domestic Violence Task Force that is working together here in Moore County to address the need for preventive steps that can be taken as well interventions to assist families and victims of domestic violence. I can assure you the statistics are eye-opening.

We gladly welcome all those with an interest, ideas and willingness to help us as we focus on events to highlight these issues.

I would like to thank those that returned the 'UMW Pledge' form. In January I sent each woman here at PUMC a letter explaining the purpose of our pledge and requesting that each of us consider returning the form along with a monetary contribution - your 'pledge'. The pledge can be for any amount - as little as one dollar. Our pledge money will be used for mission work within our local community, state, nation and beyond. Response has been slow with the return of our pledge. I hope you will considering pledging if you have not done so. Please contact any of our UMW officers if you need another form.

In closing, I look forward to meeting and working with each of you as I learn my role and responsibilities as UMW President. We are all unique creations of God - each with something to offer - whether it be through your time, talent or treasure.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller



**UNITED
METHODIST WOMEN**

UMW's Quadrennial Theme
(2009-2012)

"In God's Mission
We Are Sent Out...
To
Create, Carry,
Connect, Continue"

PURPOSE of UMW

The organized unit of 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.

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PINEHURST UMW LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2011

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looking back at "chicks and chili" event...

There was more than chili on the menu for our recent UMW "chicks and chili" night . Salads, cornbreads ,and luscious desserts also filled the tables..

Thirty women were inspired as our speaker, Carolyn Gurley of the Page Memorial Methodist Church in Aberdeen revealed to us how the Holy Spirit had inspired her to open

Martha's Place, a soup kitchen, next to Page UMC in downtown Aberdeen. Along with the help of members of Page and volunteers of other churches, free lunches are served on Mondays and Tuesdays. The lunches are made available for anyone who needs nourishment both physically and spiritually. Volunteers cook the meal in the morning and by 11:00 the doors are opened for the days visitors. Bag lunches are also offered to take home for an evening meal. An area of the lunch room is reserved for donated clothes for both children and adults . These items are also free....Volunteers stroll around the tables getting to know the guests and offer prayer when requested. **Health Kits are needed** for the guests also. Each kit contains the following items: 1 gallon zip bag with 1 wash cloth, 1 bar of soap, 1 disposable razor , 1 tooth brush ,1 tooth paste ,1 deodorant.

Joan Secrest of our congregation is the contact person if you would choose to volunteer some time or to prepare some health kits. Contact her at 420-2280 or Joan.Secrest@nc.rr.com

Thank you Joan for spearheading this UMW mission project for us as well as co-coordinating our chicks and chili night! Great Job!

(More about the Soup Kitchen on page 7)



Joan Secrest



looking back at more "chicks and chili" photos and the missions study



*Photo credits to
Ann Morse
and
Joan Secrest*



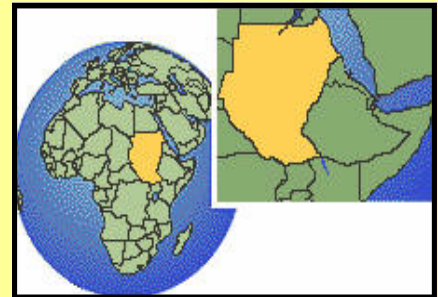
Carolyn Gurley



District Mission Study

If someone gave you a map of Africa but the names of the countries were not on it, could you identify the region of the Sudan?????

I was embarrassed that I could not. Out of the 10 ladies in the room only one filled it in correctly...What about you ??? I registered for the Mission Study on the Sudan for the very reason that I failed the first test...



Angela Crisp-Sears, our speaker, did an outstanding job in educating us on this area of the world and was able to provide lots of answers to the questions we all had...We learned about the Sudanese peoples, its different regions, its election processes and actually debated the definition of genocide....Hopefully, this mission study will be presented again at our District meeting and you will have an opportunity to learn all that I did....I came away encouraged by the compassion and commitment the women felt for positive change in the Sudan. Joan Secrest, Kathy Bollenbacher, Peg Walsh and Ann Morse also participated in the meeting and enjoyed their studies on the Book of John and Service in the Community.

by Penny Johnson

looking back—retreat reunion...



On January 31st, women gathered at the home of Sandi Garner to enjoy fellowship with those who attended the 4th annual Women's Retreat at the Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro last September. A wonderful carry in dinner was a highlight of the gathering. Time was spent in fellowship and a brief faith study by Max Lucado from his book, *Come Thirsty* (which was the basis for the Retreat study.) In addition to Sandi, those in attendance were: Jerri Banks, Kathy Bollenbacher, Nancy Bowling, June Davidson, Carol Dye, Sheri Evans, Gayle Geoghegan, Mitzi Hundley, Carla Jones, Sherry Price, Carolyn Shaffer, Clark Smearman, Beulah Warren, Dorothy Werkmeister, Carol Wunderland., Helen Moeser, Stacy Garner, Jan Cashion and hopefully we didn't forget someone!



Photo credits to Mitzi Hundley and Carla Jones

women's opportunities at pumc...

Aurora Circle:

- Quilting/banner making,
- Meets the 2nd Monday, 9:30 AM., at church
- Contact Judy Forster, 215-9977.

Evening Circle:

- Meets the 4th Monday, 7:00 PM, at church
- Child care available.
- New study starting: "*Proverbs-Uncommon Sense*" from the Life Connection Series. Books: \$9.00
- Contact: Dee Johnson 215-8104

Friendship Circle:

- Meets the 3rd Wednesday afternoon, 1:00 PM, at church
- Currently studying: "*When God Speaks*" by Richard Blackaby.
- March Mission project is for Meals on Wheels—individually packaged food items would be appreciated.
- Contact Pam Martin 400-5138

Ladies Bible Fellowship

- Meets each Thursday, 9:30AM at the West Side Park Community Center in Seven Lakes West
- New study starting: "Pursuing More of Jesus" by Ann Graham Lotz
- Contact Dorothy Werkmeister 400-5050 or dacwerkmeister@hotmail.com
Please try to register by March 10th.
- Contact Dita McGaughey 673-4716 to prepay for your book.
- Cost is \$13. for the book.

Knitting Group:

- Meets each Tuesday, 1:30 PM at church
- Contact Dita Mc Gaughey, 673-4716

Card Ministry:

- Send congregational greeting cards
- Contact Dita Mc Gaughey, 673-4716



and more opportunities...



Who needs another email?

Many days I wish my email box wasn't so full that's for sure. But when I get a prayer e-mail request from Nancy Bowling, I always try to stop right then and there and pray for the person that is in need. What a wonderful opportunity to support, encourage and care for one another as we pray for each other.

Contact Nancy Bowling at nbow@nc.rr.com, with your prayer requests and she will send your request out as an email so PUMC women can be praying.

Who needs a dinner out?

Here's a thought....contact Carla Jones at bncjones@nc.rr.com to add your name and/or your spouse and/or your children to the "sub list" for the "Let's do Dinner" dinner group/s at PUMC. Chances are you will probably be called and get that "dinner out!"

The current groups include one just for adults and one for families that wish to include their children.

Subs are always needed when our table isn't full...and we would love to be able to call you and see if you might be available to join us for an evening. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and get to know them better.

Bring your beverage tabs - for the Ronald McDonald House; Campbell Soup labels - for Methodist University, Fayetteville; peanut butter crackers - for Snak Pack Pals (for seniors); and miniature boxes of raisins - for Back Pack Pals. Thanks!

UMW has officially designated the Soup Kitchen at Page Memorial United Methodist Church in Aberdeen as one of our missions.



PUMC is responsible for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The hours are from 9:00AM to 1:30 or 2:00PM, This includes preparation and clean up. Lunch is served from 11:30AM to 1:00PM. Volunteers are needed—another opportunity! If you are unable to commit to the total amount of time, partial times are helpful also. Contact Joan Secrest at joan.secrest@nc.rr.com or-2280 you would like to be a part of this worthy mission. (Men are certainly welcome too!)

Thanks to **Ann Morse** (our UMW Missions and Social Action Chairperson) and **Joan Secrest** for their diligence in promoting and organizing our church's participation in this worthwhile community project.

prayers of praise and concern...

EASTER - this year is April 24th, so when you are reading this March/April edition of "news U can use" it may seem a bit early to turn our thoughts to Easter Sunday. But is it really? As Christians we should be praising and thanking God EVERYDAY for His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and for His glorious resurrection. I pray each of you will have a happy and richly blessed Easter.

**"This time of year renews our hope in all God has ahead,
For we were blessed eternally when Christ rose from the dead.
So may your trust in Him remain constant, strong and true,
For He is working out His best as He lives His life in you."
*Guideposts Outreach***

Our Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for:

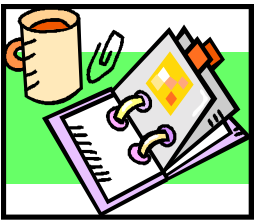
- safe travel to Arizona for Roger and Jean Hicks
- Pastor Banks, his family and all of our PUMC staff
- all who volunteer their time, gifts and talents to serve our church
- our loving and caring church family
- the successful PUMC-UMW "Chicks 'N Chili" event

Father, we pray for:

- our Church Family, our Military Family, those in Ministry, our Church Family in Care Facilities and our Extended Church Family
- our PUMC Building Committee
- our PUMC Music Ministry Search Committee
- the ministry of the Methodist Home for Children and the children they assist
- the Page UMC Soup Kitchen and our PUMC-UMW women who are assisting
- the UMW
- our PUMC Fun Day for Kids on March 26th
- our PUMC Men's BBQ set for April 15th
- those working on our October 22/23rd PUMC Women's Fall Retreat
- the people of Haiti as they continue to suffer devastating and traumatic effects from last years disastrous earthquake and for UM servants like Rev. James Gulley and Helen Little who are deeply dedicated to helping Haitians live a better life as they struggle daily with unbelievable squalid living conditions
- Charlene and all of the family of Jim Sazama
- Bob and Beulah Warren who have lost three family members within three months.

"...and they continued steadfastly in prayer." Acts 2:42

**Thank you for your praise and prayers!
Please e-mail prayer requests and updates to Nancy Bowling: nbow@nc.rr.com
PUMC-UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator**



March 26th The District UMW annual spiritual enrichment event, **District Day Apart**, will be held on Saturday, March 26, at the Center UMC, Sanford, from 9 till 1. The featured speaker will be Norma Smith, Jonesboro UMC, a dynamic lay speaker and volunteer supervisor coordinator for Wake County's Habitat. There will be music & refreshments. We will car pool. Use the sign up sheet in the narthex by 3/23.

April 12th PUMC-UMW Leadership Team meeting at 7 pm at church

April 15th—PUMC Men's BBQ Fundraiser-

Get out your favorite brownie and cookie recipes, because the men have asked the women to once again help with the desserts! Be prepared...they need 1600! But we can do it! In addition to baking won't you please sign up (in the narthex) to help for 2 hours that day? Thank you in advance!

May 3rd—SAVE THE DATE for Chicks and Flicks!

The third and final UMW and CEO (Chicks Eating Out) event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd. This CHICKS AND FLICKS evening event will run from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Stay tuned and find out just which flick we will show on the big screen along with our meal together. There will be more news on this in April. Popcorn anyone?

October 22 and 23rd PUMC UMW Retreat. at Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro.

An inspirational weekend for all women of our church and their friends!
This year's theme: "I Love to tell the Story"

February 11, 2012 GOT CHOCOLATE? Soon you'll be hearing lots about a Chocolate Festival event sponsored by our UMW. It won't take place until February 11th, **2012**, but there will be lots of fun things to do ahead of time in preparing for the all day community wide activity.

There are 4 goals for the Chocolate Festival:

- Introduce a new Bible study to the community: *Simply Relevant (Chocolate Boutique™)*, a Relational Bible Series for women - 6 sessions on God's grace.
- Provide community awareness of PUMC; and share God's love with our neighbors.
- Fund raise for: Boys and Girls Club /Family Promise /Friend to Friend/ Life Care Pregnancy Center ZOE/ Global Missions for UMW/ UMW projects for women & children at PUMC
- Provide an activity for PUMC women to work together.

The first planning meeting was held on Wed., Feb. 23rd. And the adjacent picture was "just a preview" to spark the interest of the planning committee.

Soon you will be hearing more about the details.
So stay tuned. **And think chocolate!**



Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

Answers to your frequently asked questions about human trafficking.

January 10, 2011

But this is a people robbed and plundered, all of them are trapped in holes and hidden in prisons; they have become a prey with no one to rescue, a spoil with no one to say, "Restore!" Who among you will give heed to this, who will attend and listen for the time to come?

—Isaiah 42:22-23 (NRSV)

Human trafficking is a crime. United Methodist Women from across the nation have joined this sacred mission by taking a stand to prevent, protect and prosecute those impacted by this trade in human beings that occurs everywhere in the world. Through education, partnership and action, United Methodist Women are working with faith representatives, elected officials and other community groups to build awareness and ignite flames of hope for those who are trafficked.

—Susie Johnson, Women's Division Washington Office of Public Policy

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, and is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug trade. The United Nations (U.N.) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines human trafficking as the recruiting, transporting and harboring of persons by use of threat, force or deception for the purpose of exploitation. Traffickers take advantage of vulnerable persons with false promises or physical abduction, forcing them into contract slavery, forced labor and sexual trafficking.

Worldwide statistics

According the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2010, the number of adults and children currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution is 12.3 million. Worldwide, 1.8 per 1,000 persons is a victim of human trafficking, increasing to 3 persons per 1,000 in Asia and the Pacific. Sixty-two countries have yet to convict a trafficker under the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and 104 countries have yet to establish laws or regulations regarding human trafficking.

Why it happens

Our current global economic system continues to reward wealth and exploit the poor. Sexual trafficking is connected to the feminization of poverty. Seventy percent of the world's poor are women and girls, most of whom live in developing countries with limited options available to them. Women comprise 56 percent of the 12.3 million trafficked adults and children according to the Trafficking in Persons Report.

Where can victims be found?

Male and female victims of human trafficking can be found in all types of establishments and locations, in rural, suburban and urban settings in the United States and worldwide. You'll find victims on the streets, in houses, in trailers and on farms. Victims of human trafficking can be landscaping and agricultural workers, panhandlers, day laborers, factory and sweatshop workers, hotel workers, and housekeepers. Victims are exploited by the service industries in restaurants, bars, strip clubs, nail salons, and similar businesses. You'll find many victims on "adult services" Internet sites; the commercial sex industry relies heavily on human trafficking victims. Prostitutes, strippers, escorts, and workers in massage parlors, brothels and for phone chat lines are often victims. Right now traffickers in many American cities are exploiting workers and sexually abusing women and girls.

worldwide umw news, continued...

Why help?

The 2008 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church ¶161 states that United Methodists "deplore all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sex, with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. To lose freedom and be sold by someone else for sexual purposes is a form of slavery, and we denounce such business and support the abused and their right to freedom. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation or use of children by adults and encourage efforts to hold perpetrators legally and financially responsible. (p. 104)

The 2008 Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church Resolution 6023, titled "Abolition of Sex Trafficking," declares, "Therefore, The United Methodist Church, through education, financial resources, publication, lobbying, and the use of every relevant gift of God, shall join in the active battle against the modern-day enslavement of humans for commercial sexual exploitation."

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

—Psalm 82:3-4 (NRSV)

How to spot human trafficking

Victims of human trafficking often live on or near their work premises, often with a large number of occupants in a small space. Bouncers, guards, guard dogs or barbed wire may be present. Many victims live in isolated areas. Victims lack of private space, personal possessions and financial records and are kept under surveillance or are escorted by an employer when they are out in the community. The trafficker may act as a translator.

The victim may be branded or have other scarring indicating ownership. Victims are often malnourished and may show signs of rape, sexual and physical abuse, posttraumatic stress and poor psychological health, and have sexually transmitted diseases or other untreated medical problems.

Brothels often contain barred windows, locked doors and electronic surveillance. Women do not leave the house unescorted, and men come and go frequently. Large amounts of cash and condoms are usually present, as is a customer receipt book.

For more information on how to spot trafficking, visit the Los Angeles Metro Task Force on Human Trafficking.

How you can help

United Methodist Women all over the country can join together to stop modern-day slavery.

Your unit can host an education forum to help educate others on the realities of human trafficking. Call the United Methodist Women Washington Office of Public Policy at 202-488-5660 to identify a program facilitator. Invite local law enforcement agencies, friends and other faith-based and humanitarian groups to your program. Contact your local law enforcement agency about human trafficking in your community. How does your local agency prevent and prosecute trafficking? How can you help?

Watch for signs of trafficking. Be aware, and report possible trafficking to local authorities and the U.S. Department of Justice 1-888-428-7581.

Share the signs of human trafficking with youth groups and other groups in your church and community.

Create a community task force.

Buy fair trade. Know where the products you buy come from and how they are made.

Support education and business opportunities for women and girls.

The United Methodist Women website provides many tools for your use, including human trafficking Bible studies, action alerts and a PowerPoint presentation as well as downloadable fliers and materials from its Intercept Human Trafficking campaign.

Nationwide you can call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.

For more ways to help, visit United Methodist Women: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act

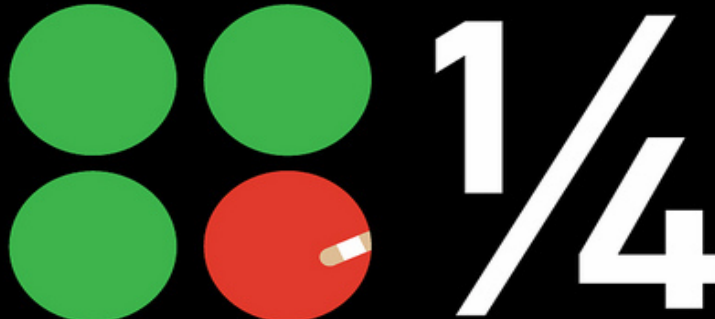
Domestic violence
is not just a
women's issue.

It is an issue of
faith.

We proclaim...
that violence against women
exists in all communities,
including our own, and is
morally, spiritually and
universally intolerable.

We commit ourselves to
working toward the day when
all women will be safe and
abuse will be no more.

Statistics from the National Domestic Violence Resource Center,
available at www.ndvrc-nc.org/domesticviolence/resources/C61/



one in every four
women will experience
domestic violence
in her lifetime



more than three women
and one man are
murdered by their
intimate partners in the
U.S. every day



less than one-fifth
of victims reporting
an injury from
intimate partner
violence sought
medical treatment
following the injury

only approximately
one-quarter of all
physical assaults,
perpetrated
against females by
intimate partners
are reported
to the police



does your partner:

- look or act in ways that are frightening
- try to control what you do, who you see or talk to, or where you go
 - try to stop you from seeing friends or family members
 - try to take your money or Social Security check
- make you ask for money or refuse to give you money that is supposed to be shared or yours
 - make all of the decisions in your relationship

If you answered 'yes' to even one of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.



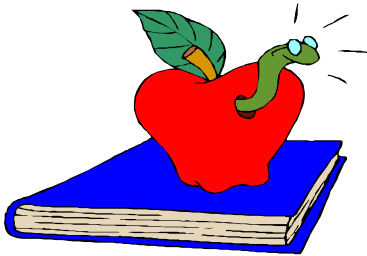
United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

If you are in danger, please call 911 or
the National Domestic Violence
Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233);
TTY 1-800-787-3224

For more information and to get involved, visit
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act

"stuff" thanks to you!

"stuff"??? What's that??? Well, you know, it's just stuff that you thought was interesting, funny, enlightening, helpful, encouraging, etc, etc and you thought someone else might like it too. Send your "stuff" to Carla bncjones@nc.rr.com.



PAM'S BOOK NOOK
contributed by Pam Martin

God Sightings: *The One Year Bible*

New International Version

The subtitle of *The One Year Bible* is "Learning to experience God every day." This Bible is organized for "Bible readers who wish to read through the Bible in one year." Or not... Many plans will take the reader through the Bible; you probably have one. So why buy this book?

First, this Bible is so easy to use. Unlike a standard Bible, you won't find yourself flipping here and there to find the readings. (This makes me sound really lazy, but I love the convenience this book provides!) There are Bible readings for each day of the year. "Every day there is an excerpt from the Old Testament, the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs."

Second, this book is designed to encourage reading. The editor states, "If you've tried to read the Bible in a year, you know the drill: you miss a day here and there and soon you're discouraged. You cram a week's worth of reading into one sitting or you give up all together. With *God Sightings*, you'll read at your own pace. Want to finish in a year? Fine! Two years? OK!"

As you can see, it's not too late in the year to get started. You can begin on the current date or wherever you choose. The important thing to remember is that your "goal isn't to complete a homework assignment. It's to let the living God of the universe reveal Himself to you" through His word.

If you are interested in *The One Year Bible*, see Pastor David. And, as always, happy reading!

more stuff...thanks to you!...

Florida Court Sets Atheist Holy Day!

You must read this...a proper decision by the courts...for a change.

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!" The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your Honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."



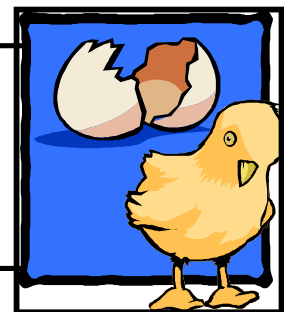
The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists." The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

You have to love a Judge that knows his scripture!

PUMC chicks can do *egg-stra-ordinary* things together!

because

I (we) can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (us)! Philippians 4:13



more "stuff"...thanks to you...

A beautiful thought...

When I meditated on the word *Guidance*,
 I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word.
 I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.
 When two people try to lead, nothing feels right.
 The movement doesn't flow with the music,
 and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.
 When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead,
 both bodies begin to flow with the music.
 One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back
 or by pressing lightly in one direction or another.
 It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully.
 The dance takes surrender, willingness,
 and attentiveness from one person
 and gentle guidance and skill from the other.
 My eyes drew back to the word *Guidance*.
 When I saw "G": I thought of *God*, followed by "u" and "i".
 "God, "u" and "i" dance."
 God, you, and I dance.
 As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust
 that I would get guidance about my life.
 Once again, I became willing to let *God* lead.
 My prayer for you today is that *God's* blessings
 and mercies are upon you on this day and everyday.
 May you abide in *God*, as *God* abides in you.
 Dance together with *God*, trusting *God* to lead
 and to guide you through each season of your life.
 If *God* has done anything for you in your life,
 please share this message with someone else.
 There is no cost but a lot of rewards;
 so let's continue to pray for one another.
 And I Hope You Dance Through 2011!

Contributed by Joan Secrest



more "stuff"...thanks to you...

Holly Reed contributed this awesome recipe ... What a wonderful way to share the Easter story with your children or grandchildren They will love it!

RESURRECTION COOKIES

- **Read the whole recipe before beginning.**

Do together the Saturday night before Easter.

- Preheat the oven to 300 degrees.

Ingredients

- 1 cup whole pecans
- 3 egg whites
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vinegar
- 1 pinch of salt

You need:

- mixing bowl
- wooden spoon
- Bible
- Ziploc bag
- waxed paper
- cookie sheet
- tape

Place pecans in a Ziploc bag and let child beat them with a wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. READ JOHN 19:1-3.

Let child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. READ JOHN 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. READ JOHN 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into the child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup of sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. READ PSALM 34:8 AND JOHN 3:16.

Beat with mixer on high speed for 11-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. READ ISAIAH 1:18 AND JOHN 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by tsp onto a waxed paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. READ MATTHEW 27:59-60.

Put cookie sheet in oven. Close the door and TURN THE OVEN OFF. Give child a piece of tape to seal the oven door shut. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. READ MATTHEW 27:65-66.

GO TO BED

Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. READ JOHN 16:20 AND 22.

On Resurrection morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Resurrection Day, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb empty. READ MATTHEW 28:1-9.

HE HAS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!!