

The Vision

Volume 15, Issue 7

“For the VISION is for the days yet to come.” *Daniel 10:14*

July 2022

Hello Velda Rose UMC! By Pastor Ann



Hello Velda Rose UMC! I am so excited to be your pastor and am looking forward to my first Sunday with you on July 10. I suspect you are

curious about me just as I am curious about all of you. I look forward to getting to know you and the community around Velda Rose over the next weeks and even months. Please feel free to drop me an email, pastorann@veldarose.org or stop by when I am in the office. I haven't set hard and fast office hours yet so you might want to call to make sure I'm there rather than just stop in. As I get to know Velda Rose and the area, I will develop routines and patterns that will become more regular but initially I will be in and out as I adjust to a new community and learn about the needs and rhythms of your (and now my) church family. I would love to share coffee or iced tea and get to know you. Here are answers to some questions people commonly ask a new pastor:

Do you have any children? Tell us about your family, please.

My husband and I live with my youngest daughter in Scottsdale very near his parents. I have three daughters. Paige, the youngest, will be a senior this year and attends Saguaro High School in Scottsdale. She spends many of her weekends with her dad. My oldest daughter, Sandra, lives in the Phoenix area and starts her Ph.D this fall, studying psychology. Schelley, the middle daughter, lives in New York City and works in television.

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania, descended from the PA Dutch, with their love of pie, potlucks, good

food, and family. I grew up United Methodist, having been baptized Evangelical United Brethren before the merger in 1968. I have two older brothers and a younger sister. My mom still lives in my hometown of Bradford PA, home of Zippo lighters and Kendall oil, in the heart of the Allegany Forest. I recently spent several weeks with her as she recovered from a fall. But I lived for almost 25 years in Las Vegas, before moving to Scottsdale to serve at Scottsdale UMC.

Are you a dog or a cat person?

We have two dogs, Mario, and the puppy Smidge. I do love cats, but Mario and Smidge do not!

Do you have any hobbies?

I love cooking, hiking, camping, reading, gardening and have a particular fondness for British detective shows. Recently, I've been working on my health and found a passion for working out and swimming.

What Bible do you prefer?

I prefer the NRSV (now the NRSVUE). But YOU should read whatever Bible you are most likely to read. If you won't read it, having the "right" translation doesn't matter!

What excites you about faith?

I love sharing my faith and helping others discover and explore theirs. God has been so good to me, stood by me in difficult times, been faithful even when I was filled with doubt and despair, pulled me back from the brink, and rebuilt my faith with the voice of Jesus and the touch of the Holy Spirit. I love to share what makes God--Jesus, Creator and Holy Spirit--so wonderful. I will share more about my faith, what it means to me to be Methodist and how our understanding of God impacts how we live, in our first worship series together: This I Believe.



Music is a gift. Remember your years as a teenager when music was everything? Perhaps it was your passion and it was above any criticism or scrutiny. It was so easy to memorize those lyrics and they provoked our

imaginations to just... daydream. During the Memorial Day weekend, I stumbled across the song “Born on the Bayou” by Credence Clearwater Revival. Needless to say, it evoked deep rooted memories from my childhood in the 70’s, driving my bicycle with the high handle bars and the blue banana seat.

You ever notice the music at the mall, at the Doctor’s office and of course – the commercials on TV? Most of the time, this music functions as a means to fill the “background” rather than as an opportunity for participation. I think it’s worthwhile to say that our souls have also been created to respond to music in foundational ways. Just like certain songs are deeply connected to our memories, we also have songs that are deeply connected to our faith. The role of music in worship is biblical. Music has been part of the Christian experience from the beginning. Exodus 15 says that “After escaping from the Egyptians and crossing the Red Sea, the people of Israel sang a song to the Lord (Exod. 15)”. Singing was part of Israel’s formal worship in both the tabernacle and the temple. *The faithful raise their voices in song to God* say the Psalms. In joy and sorrow, in praise and lament – sing unto the Lord.

The principal direction of congregational singing is to the Lord (Ps. 96:1). Music is made first of all to the Lord, and only secondarily to each other. It needs to communicate and express a sense of awe and wonder in the presence of God. In Colossians 3:16-17, the Apostle Paul shared a strong testimony in the words “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns,*

and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Reformed theologian Karl Barth points out that singing is not an option for the people of God; it is one of the essential ministries of the church: He further adds “*The Christian church sings. It is not a choral society. Its singing is not a concert. But from inner, material necessity it sings. Singing is the highest form of human expression.... What we can and must say quite confidently is that the church which does not sing is not the church. The congregation is always the primary choir.*”

We all have songs that connect to our faith. These are songs that make God’s presence more relational and evident to us, songs that speak to our hearts and souls - like nothing else. Many of us could say that these songs, hymns or spirituals, are deeply rooted in our memories. Perhaps it is an old hymn that you associated with the grandparents who were shining examples in faith, or perhaps it was the song that was playing when you first committed to follow Jesus. Other deep faith songs might be ones that spoke truth and reassurance into our lives when we needed it the most. Or, they are songs that put our most important beliefs to words in a way that we cannot.

Our lives are surrounded with music. Worship is a “living sacrifice,” and therefore our gifts to God should represent some cost to us. Music should lead our thoughts toward God rather than toward ourselves. And again I say... *The faithful raise their voices in song to God.*



**SUNDAY
SERVICES**
9:30 AM
IN-PERSON & ONLINE

July 3

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

Don't Pack For the Journey
Psalm 66 & Luke 10:1-11
Pastor Daniel

July 10

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

I Believe in God the Father...
Colossians 1:1-14
Pastor Ann

July 17

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

*I Believe in Jesus Christ, his Only
Son, our Lord...*
Colossians 1:15-28
Pastor Ann

July 24

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

*I Believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic church...*
Colossians 2:6-15
Pastor Ann

July 31

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

Relax, Eat, Drink and...
Luke 12 & Colossians 3:1-11
Pastor Daniel

**WEDNESDAY
ONLINE
SERVICES**

Wednesday Mornings Online at 10:00 AM

James in the Suburbs: A Disorderly Parable of the Epistle of James

James in the Suburbs: A Disorderly Parable of the Epistle of James, by April Love-Fordham takes a detailed and introspective look at how the Book of James, if taken seriously, can change and deepen our faith. And, if we live out its teachings, it will change our witness to the world. (See page 9 for more information.)

July 6 at 10:00 AM

July 20 at 10:00 AM

July 13 at 10:00 AM

July 27 at 10:00 AM

The United Methodist Church & Ukrainian Refugees Update



The sign outside the United Methodist Building on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C., calls for peace following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Photo by Wendy Merida.

Activities of The United Methodist Church in the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe with/for Refugees from Ukraine Summary of June 14, 2022

Because it is bright Currently, daytime duration is still increasing – and this somehow makes a difference. Two participants of the recent online meeting focusing on the activities with/for refugees from Ukraine also referred to this reality: Denis Kim, who joined the meeting from Kyiv, described the situation in Ukraine's capital as "a little better" than one month ago... And when Jana Křížova, pastor and coordinator of the work with/for refugees in Czechia, described some aspects of the situation in her country, she echoed this assumption. This does not change... anything of the

fact that in the countries neighboring to Ukraine, particularly those who did not (yet) decide to permanently stay in their host country but still hope to return to Ukraine one day, are living in a situation of very stressful uncertainty and difficult waiting... But given the fact that the daytime duration will soon start to decrease again, it might serve as a reminder to those accompanying refugees from Ukraine how important it is not to grow weary of bringing a light of love and hope into the lives of these people. And this is what United Methodists in the countries directly or indirectly neighboring to Ukraine – and in Ukraine itself – are continuing to do.

Czechia

- According to Mária Kunstová, members of Třeboň UMC have started an integration group for Ukrainian families in their premises that is open every weekday. The aim of this project, which was implemented in cooperation with the town of Třeboň, was to help mothers with young children with childcare, as the kindergartens in Třeboň do not have free capacity.
- In Tachov, distribution of clothing in the church, which had been uninterested for several week, is beginning to pick up again as the Red Cross is running low on supplies, said pastor Jana Daněčková.

Hungary

- The UMC in Hungary continued to bring humanitarian aid (food donations) to both the UMC in Ukraine and to a refugee camp near Debrecen, where more than 170 people are living, as Luca Birtalan reported.
- The Church received 500 copies of a Ukrainian youth Bible. Some were passed on to refugees in Hungary, others will be brought to Ukraine. Activities of The United Methodist Church in the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe with/for Refugees from Ukraine Summary of June 14, 2022

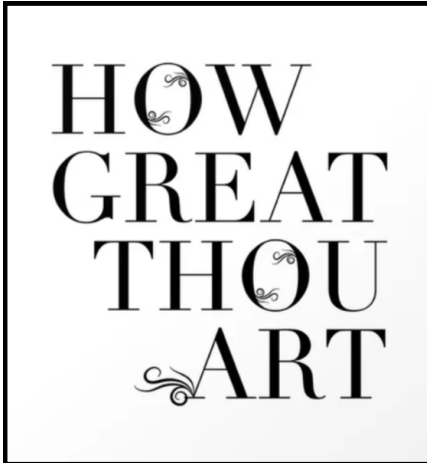
Poland

- Kielce UMC and Puławy UMC organized transports of food, clothes and medical supplies to Ukraine. Additionally, they are preparing a consignment for an orphanage in Poland with children from Ukraine.
- The UMC in Poland, together with other organizations, also helps people that would like to return to their houses in Ukraine with transportation.

June 14, 2022 / Urs Schweizer

(based on reports from CZ, HU, PL, RO, SK, and UA)

For the full article, including information from additional countries Slovakia and Romania, go to <https://www.umnews.org/-/media/UMC%20Media/2022/06/17/14/39/united-methodist-church-europe-ukraine-refugees-june14>



Although all good music can have a powerful effect on us, one kind of music, the hymn, has a unique influence that goes beyond music as an art. As the scriptures are to

great literature, so are the hymns to great music.

Many people, myself included, have been blessed by the hymns. Lives have been touched as hymns have brought about conversion or increased testimony. Hymns have given comfort, courage, or strength by opening communication through the Holy Spirit.

A favorite hymn, "How Great Thou Art", brought comfort to a women in need. She writes:

"We were two thousand miles away from our home in Alberta, Canada, visiting our daughter's family. My husband, who had sprained his ankle the evening we arrived, was in the hospital with a blood clot. He lay in a bed, immobilized, with an IV in his arm.

"As I left his room after my first visit, I felt a little blue. I was in an unfamiliar place, lonely and

worried about the responsibilities we had waiting for us at home.

"Our daughter wanted some things for the baby, so we stopped at a department store. Because I didn't feel like shopping, I walked over to a clerk demonstrating a beautiful electric organ.

"Do you play?" he asked.

"Only a little," I replied.

"Sit down and try it then." I sat and softly played...

"How Great Thou Art." Suddenly, I heard a lady singing along with me. Her rich soprano voice and the sound of the organ had attracted people from all over the store. The clerk pushed button after button until the organ sounded like a whole orchestra. Suddenly I felt strong. The words of the song brought me a message. We would get home safely, everything would be all right.

"The blessing of the music and words at that time seemed heaven-sent to lift me up and I thanked my Father in Heaven for the power of sacred music."

~ "Blessed by the Hymns", Compiled by LaVonne VanOrden, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; story by Vera N. Forsyth, page 18

Monthly Prayer for Churches



- First UMC, Gilbert
- First UMC, Tempe
- St. Paul's UMC, Globe
- The Bridge UMC, Phoenix
- Velda Rose UMC, Mesa

United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

**ASSEMBLY 2022
WAS INSPIRING!**
By Mary Killgrove

What good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it?
Claiming to have faith can't save you, can it?
Imagine a brother or sister.... naked
Never has enough food to eat
And then one of you says,
"Go in peace. Stay warm, have a nice meal..."
What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs?
In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.
Someone might claim, "You have faith, I have action."
But how can I see your faith apart from your action?
Instead, I'll show you my faith...by putting it into practice
In faithful action.

This was the underlying message of Assembly 2022 held in Orlando, Florida. This is the message of James 2:14-18—we show our faith by our actions. United Women in faith members are urged to participate in causes that result in systematic changes that will last. The focus for the next four years is on racial justice, climate justice and women's economic empowerment. We as UWF members are called by God to put love into action, show up, make a difference, inspire and influence. Janet Wolf, theologian-in-residence and the author of *Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*, eloquently preached through out the weekend. She described the Bible as a painting of the dreams and vision of God's own heart. She stressed that we are all tied together, and none are free unless all are free. Each of us is divinely designed by God. We are awesomely and wonderfully made!

The national United Women of Faith organization

has challenged each member to bring 2 new members into UMF by the end of 2022. Let's get energized! Let's make a change! Let's show our faith through action!

UNITED WOMEN in FAITH BOOK REPORT by Billie Larime

A HOUSE IN THE SKY by Amanda Lindout & Sara Corbett (Education for Mission 2018). This is the true story of a kidnapping in Afghanistan. When you need a book that is hard to put down and you have plenty of time to read, I recommend this book. It is not easy to read about sexual abuse of a woman, but it is a truth we women need to confront along with the need to forgive and a social action plan to reduce sexual exploitation all over the world.

**RESPONSE (the magazine of women in mission)
MAY/JUNE 2022 p.8-10.**

This Bible Study was written by Candace Simpson that also wrote the current Mission u study "Who Can We Be Together?" This study is from Luke 13:10-17. This is good for a personal devotion or a shared study. The study is about the world we live in if there are barriers to participation based on ability. If you attend Mission u this summer, you will have the opportunity to explore this idea with other women at Red Mountain UMC (in-person) on June 24 & 25. Or you can virtually attend on July 23 & 24. Contact Billie Larime for help with registration or scholarships.

ASSEMBLY BY ZOOM in Orlando, Florida by Billie Larime

After much anticipation and lots of training sessions, I attended the first Virtual Assembly ever presented for the United Methodist Women (United Women of Faith). The in-person Assembly for 2022 was live in Orlando, Florida and was recorded and zoomed to another 1200 women. I had attended my first Assembly in 2018 (continued on page 7)

Volunteers Needed



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FITCH CHURCH LIBRARY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

It is time to return to the normal activities of the church in terms of having the Fitch Library open for the use of the church membership for coffee and treats each Sunday between the hours of 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. and after church services from 10:30-11:00 a.m. If you wish to join this mission of fellowship once a month and get to know other people, please contact Tish Roberts to pick the Sunday each month you would like to help. Couples or singles are all welcome. Sharing the work makes a lighter burden for all. And besides

it is fun to socialize and meet new people. Program sponsored by United Men in Mission and United Women in Faith.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH LIBRARY BOOK CHECKOUTS

Our Church Librarian, Jerry Pierce, has had to resign his duties due to health problems. We all hope he makes a speedy recovery. Currently we have no means to keep the library open for checking out books unless we can find volunteers to assist in opening the library for a couple of hours each month on a regular schedule. Please pray about being one of those people that likes to read and help others find interesting faith books. The United Women in Faith has been faithful in buying 15-30 new books for the library each year. We encourage all members of the church to read fiction and non-fiction books of faith. We have books for children, youth, and adults. Please contact Tish Roberts to discuss how you could help two hours a month.



Program sponsored by United Women in Faith.

United Women in Faith (continued)



United
Women
in Faith

(in-person) in Columbus, Ohio. It was interesting to compare the experiences. This 2022 Assembly was very diverse and action oriented. The music was fantastic with an emphasis on the African American Jazz and Gospel music traditions. Much of the program was devoted to explaining the renaming of UMW to United Women in Faith. Hopefully, the new naming and new on-line programs will influence and serve new women who have never joined United Methodist Women as active members.

CLOSING REMARKS by author Candace Simpson "Who Can We Be Together"

"I believe God's grace is sufficient. And when it isn't, we can take care of one another until it does."

May 2022 Apportionments Continued To Improve

May apportionment receipts continued at a higher level than last year. Like last year, the Conference fully paid one month (8.3%) of 2022 apportionments for all of our churches. Our churches paid another 27.8%, resulting in an overall apportionments receipt level of 36.1% for the first five months of the year. That was 0.7% better than last year's level. At this rate, we project year-end apportionment receipts of about 82%.

By Randy Bowman, Conference Treasurer

Apportionment receipts through May are shown graphically as follows:

| District | Paid 2022 | Paid Last Year | Average Paid Last 10 Years |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| North District | 36.97% | 38.13% | 36.11% |
| South District | 36.73% | 34.22% | 33.07% |
| East District | 33.97% | 35.05% | 32.24% |
| West District | 38.53% | 35.43% | 34.45% |
| Total | 36.11% | 35.44% | 33.57% |

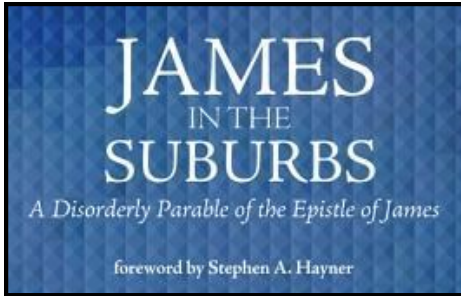
Overall, the Conference remains in strong financial shape. Our available cash reserves are at \$3.0 million, down only slightly from \$3.1 million at the beginning of this year. We had an overall operating deficit of \$521,000 due to: payment of our general church apportionments at 100%; payment of one month of apportionments for all churches in the Conference; investment losses; and COVID-impacted losses in our camp and retreat ministries (particularly at Mingus Mountain Camp). This operating deficit was lower than it might have been as a result of reduced travel, operating efficiencies, and lower staff costs in many of areas of ministry. So we are thankful for that, just as we are thankful for your continued support of our connectional system through your apportionment contributions.

Apportionments are a way to look beyond just ourselves. Please do all that you can to help our churches and our ministries continue to change lives by contributing apportionments as fully as possible in the remaining seven months of 2022. Thanks again for your commitment; it truly provides the financial stability for our connectional programs to work.

*in loving
memory*

Charles "Keith" Simons 5/29/22

Livestreaming Wednesday Mornings in July



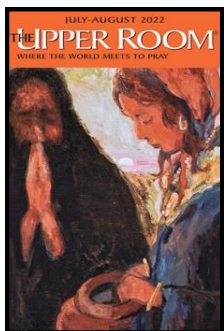
Join Pastor Ann and Pastor Daniel at 10:00 AM online Wednesday mornings in July as they lead a study on *James in the Suburbs: A Disorderly Parable of the Epistle of James*.

The Book of James will challenge us, especially if we are feeling comfortable or satisfied with our Christian walk. James invites us to ask ourselves, "Do you consume God's blessings, or do you share them?"

Most Christians are consumers. We are obsessed with knowing the right theology and following the right set of rules in hopes that God will bless us. Yet, no matter how much God blesses us, we are still looking for more. James says our faith is dead. But there is another type of Christian, one who craves being put to work as the servant of God to share God's blessings with others. Their faith spurs them on to become the hands and feet of Christ. James says their faith is alive.

James in the Suburbs: A Disorderly Parable of the Epistle of James, by April Love-Fordham takes a detailed and introspective look at how the Book of James, if taken seriously, can change and deepen our faith. And, if we live out its teachings, it will change our witness to the world.

July-August Upper Room



The July-August 2022 Upper Rooms are available in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, or in the office during office hours.

If you are homebound and would like to receive the Upper Room by mail, please contact the office to be put on the mailing list.

VRUMC Food Pantry

The Food Pantry at Velda Rose UMC provides non-perishable food to those who come seeking assistance. If you can donate some of the following items, we would greatly appreciate it:



- * Peanut Butter
- * Jelly
- * Canned Chicken
- * Canned Tuna
- * Boxes of Cereal
- * Spaghetti
- * Spaghetti Sauce

Donations can be brought to the church office, or put in the Food Pantry Baskets in front of the Sanctuary.

Mesa Hydration Donation Campaign

For pallet deliveries, contact
Becca Gilbert
at begilbert@unitedfoodbank.org

Mesa Hydration Donation Campaign

HELP THE VULNERABLE DURING TRIPLE DIGIT HEAT

Donate bottled water to help the homeless and
unsheltered during the summer

June 1 - September 30



- **United Food Bank Volunteer Center**
358 E. Javelina Ave.
- **Paz de Cristo**
424 W. Broadway Road
- **Dobson Ranch HOA**
Administrative Office
2719 S. Reyes
- **Klaus Team - Keller Williams Integrity First Realty**
2919 S. Ellsworth Rd #133
- **The Salvation Army**
241 E. 6th St.
- **Mesa Fire Station 201**
360 E. 1st St.
- **Mesa Fire Station 207**
2505 S. Dobson Road
- **Mesa Fire Station 208**
4530 E. McKellips Road
- **Mesa Fire Station 212**
2430 S. Ellsworth Road
- **Mesa Main Library**
64 E. 1st St.
- **Red Mountain Library**
635 N. Power Road
- **Red Mountain Center**
7550 E. Adobe Road
- **Mesa Parks and Recreation**
708 W. Baseline Road
- **Superstition Springs Center**
6555 E. Southern Ave.
- **Mesa Chamber of Commerce**
165 N. Centennial Way, Suite 109
(Public Safety Office)
- **Mesa Community College**
1833 W. Southern Ave.
(College Police Office)
- **Mesa Community College**
7110 E. McKellips Road
(College Police Office)
- **CubeSmart Self Storage**
1126 N. Ellsworth Road
135 E. McKellips Road
3840 E. Baseline Road
536 N. Power Road
3026 S. Country Club Drive
909 S. Country Club Drive
1108 S. Extension Road
7110 E. Southern Ave.

www.mesaaz.gov/H20mesa

#mesahydrates





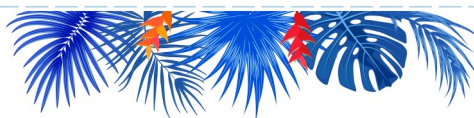
Birthdays



| | | | |
|-----------------|------|----------------|------|
| Dan Griffiths | 7/1 | Gene Osborne | 7/24 |
| Howard Orr | 7/3 | Jill Prather | 7/24 |
| Sharon Soboski | 7/8 | Trillis Perrin | 7/26 |
| Steve Benson | 7/9 | Lynn Tenold | 7/27 |
| Fran McCollough | 7/11 | Anita Miller | 7/28 |
| Nora Leesley | 7/14 | Sheila Foreman | 7/30 |
| Pat Goss | 7/16 | Norma Newman | 7/31 |
| Lois Jackson | 7/20 | | |
| Betty Ghormley | 7/23 | | |



Anniversaries



50+ Years

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Walt & Enid Gustin | 7/3 |
| Dan & Rosie Zentner | 7/9 |
| Jim & Arlene Oisten | 7/24 |

Also Celebrating

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Moki & Ana Liku | 7/8 |
| Steve Schmuki & Billie Larime | 7/8 |



VELDA ROSE

United Methodist Church

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Or on Facebook: [@veldaroseumc](https://www.facebook.com/veldaroseumc)

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Staff Leadership

Rev. Grant J. Hagiya, Resident Bishop
Rev. Melissa Rynders, East District Superintendent
Rev. Ann Lyter, Senior Pastor
Rev. Daniel Gómez, Associate Pastor
Ministers, Every Member of the Congregation

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us online for our midweek devotion
each Wednesday at 10:00 AM,
and 9:30 AM Sunday morning services in-person
and online at
facebook.com/veldaroseumc/
or on the church website:
veldarose.org/connect/watch/



NEXT ISSUE

Items considered for the
August Vision
must be submitted by
[Tuesday, July 12, 2022](https://www.veldarose.org).

Please **e-mail** Jessica at
officeadmin@veldarose.org
with your newsletter articles.