

For
United Methodist Women

The Detroit Conference News April 2009

Register for 2009 Schools of Christian Mission

By Joy Coyle, Dean of Schools of Christian Mission

Another summer of Mission Studies is fast approaching! This year's theme is "Together At The Table." For generations, the table has been an important symbol of the gathered community. Around the table,, mission studies will explore "Food and Faith," "Sudan," and "Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival."

An exceptional group of presenters will be leading the programs. Rev. Faith Fowler of Cass Community Services and Cass UMC, Rev. Dr. Jerry Devine, Albion District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue of Second Grace UMC, and Marva Usher-Kerr of Women's Division, along with our own Ruby Anderson, conference secretary of program resources are offering studies that are so appropriate to what is happening in the world. You won't want to miss them!

The dates are:

JULY 18, SCHOOL OF THE SOUTH, HOWELL FIRST UMC 8am-4pm

AUGUST 20-22, SCHOOL BY THE LAKE, H.O.M.E., MISSION 9am

PLUS! (optional activities planned for the afternoon and evening of the 22nd.) LAKE HURON RETREAT CENTER, 1pm-3pm, Sat.

OCTOBER 19-20, SCHOOL OF THE NORTH, GAYLORD UMC

The spiritual growth study, "Food and Faith" is about how the presence of God is shared in community when the faithful gather for sustenance in the form of fellowship and food.

The geographic mission study, "Sudan" embodies many of the issues of the 21st century continent of Africa. A rich tradition, great antiquity, modern troubles and hope for peace offer challenge and promise for the future.

For the second year, "Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" offers insight into the challenge and survival of Native American culture in the Christian context. Rev. Devine's program was very popular last year, and early enrollment is encouraged to assure an opportunity to take advantage of this exceptional study. Registration forms for all studies are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please encourage your local units, your district, and any other connections with people that you may have, to join us. Check with your units for scholarships

Membership Counts!

By Diana Miller, Vice President

North Central Jurisdiction
Leadership Team

Women's Division has assigned to the five Jurisdiction Leadership Teams an initiative called Membership Counts. The North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team is working with the conferences so that every church will be visited by United Methodist Women at least once during the quadrennium.

FOCUS

The focus of the initiative is to make contact with every United Methodist congregation and every organized unit of United Methodist Women for the purpose of

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A Message from Your Conference UMW President

By Linda A. Schramm

I've chaired my first Conference Mission Team Meeting of Detroit Conference United Methodist Women, so guess I'm officially in charge!

We met the last weekend in February, in various committees, team building, visioning, and goal-setting, led by Rev. Faith Fowler of Cass Community UMC. The goals committee will meet and shape our responses into conference goals for the year and for the quadrennium. How revealing it was to review previous goals and see where they've brought us and how they've shaped us.

How about the goals for your unit? Have you reviewed previous ones, celebrated those accomplished, and refocused on those not yet completed? Do new ones need to be set? Do you have a vision? How are you going to reach it? Is part of it to be connected with the district and conference?

Is one of those goals being a Five-star unit? Mission Today Unit? Are you participating in the UMW Reading Program? Making plans to have members attend The School of Christian Mission, whether it be the one day School of the South, the longer School by

the Lake, or the October opportunity for School of the North? The mission studies are always timely and so in tune to understanding what's happening in the world. The women of your unit deserve to have members attend to share with others how the various mission studies connect us with each other and our sisters across the nation and around the world.

Help Your Neighbors

By Barb Meyers,
Coordinator of Social Action

Now that the holidays are over United Methodist Women need to be aware of what is happening around us more than ever. With the economy at its lowest and our families, friends and neighbors losing jobs, homes, and health benefits, we need to be there for them. Women can give the spiritual and moral support they need. We can do this by donating our time and resources (of which we have many). Our churches and local units can work on ways to help: set up car pools to take them to appointments or grocery shopping, or offer to baby sit while they look for work. The list of ways to help is endless, but most of all listening and praying with and for those who need our help. Now is the time to come together and work together to support each other.

Plan Now For Annual Celebration

By Mary Fox V-P

Mark your calendar, get ready to participate in your 36th Detroit Conference UMW Annual Celebration/Meeting! The date is October 24th; the place is Fenton United Methodist Church.

The keynote speaker will be Women's Division Director, Jackie Euper. She will inform, encourage, challenge, and excite each of you as you strive to achieve the purpose of United Methodist Women.

The in-gathering project will support the NOAH Project at Detroit Central United Methodist Church. Please bring with you regular size bars of soap or travel size shampoos or lotions for distribution to the homeless served by this project.

Greet your friends, make new friends. Invite someone to attend this celebration with you. How about getting together a carpool from your local unit to come to Fenton and participate with all of us in this special occasion?

Music, worship, election of conference officers, fellowship, recognition, celebrations, an opportunity to learn, see the displays...so much to do, so little time. It is all waiting for you at Fenton United Methodist Church on October 24, 2009.

Membership Counts!

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- Nurturing by acknowledging and communicating the importance of involvement and support.
- Outreach by making ourselves available and visible to the women of the church.
- Witnessing by sharing with congregations about the impact of the work of United Methodist Women.

GOALS

50% of the United Methodist Churches and units will be visited at least once by May 2010.

100% of the United Methodist Churches and units will be visited at least once by June 2012.

Women participating will have established relationships with church and unit members to serve as resources by sharing materials, information and ideas.

Establishing Relationships!

Reach out to those churches and units near you and continue the leadership role by being a resource, nurturer and mentor to the women in those units, as well as a guide to the women in churches where no United Methodist Women unit has been established.

In order to make contact with every local church and unit, the leadership of the organization will plan to visit, primarily, any and all churches near her place of residence. Each woman participating should consider herself the center and plan to start relating to churches nearby.

Building a Community!

"The organization of United Methodist Women is a community of women ..."
Through this initiative, we intend to build a culture of community that goes beyond our local unit. With the assistance of the leaders involved in visitation, we will be able to share across unit lines: relationships, resources and responsibilities.

Have You Started your 2009 Reading Program?

By Ruby Anderson,
Secretary of Program
Resources

It is truly a pleasure to serve as your new Conference Secretary of Program Resources for 2009.

It is important to be a life long learner. All types of resources are available to keep you connected to and informed about the UMW. That is the purpose of the Reading Program. 2008 was indeed a great year for reading; 2009

will be even greater. Although the economy is

at a low, great reading and great service can be at a high for UMW. So, if you haven't started reading for 2009, April is a great month to start.

There are four (4) reading plans. Please make sure you have your own personal **2009 UMW Reading Program Newsprint**. Books from 2006-2009 are listed as well as books for the visually impaired and physically disabled, (There are books for all family members including children.)

READING EMPOWERS AND LEADS TO ACTION.

Several books come to mind as a good read, "Who Stole my Church", (NC); "The 51% Minority: How Women "Still" Are Not Equal.....(SA), but you be the judge. Read and share your thoughts, or join book discussion groups.

Here is a challenge for 2009 for all districts. Increase your readers by 5-10%. If there are local units that did not report in 2008, District Secretaries of Program Resources should contact them to see if you can assist them. Here are the results by districts for 2008: **Ann Arbor:** 15 units reported, 60 readers; **Detroit East:** 9 units reported, 47 readers; **Detroit West:** 10 units reported, 39 readers; **Flint District:** 23 units reported, 114 readers; **Marquette District:** 13 units reported, 43 readers; **Port Huron District:** 18 units reported, 52 readers; **Saginaw Bay District:** 23 units reported, 77 readers.

Will You Be A 5 Star Person in 2009?

By Kay Mowery, treasurer

Are you confused about the "5 Star Woman" recognition offered by Detroit Conference United Methodist Women? Maybe you've heard about "5 Star Persons"? Do you wonder what the fuss is all about? If you're confused, you're not alone!

Kathy Nader of St. Charles UMC in the Saginaw Bay District figured it all out last year, and she shared the secret with me before she left office as District Treasurer. Actually, the secret is not a secret at all: **anyone** who is willing to donate a minimum of \$60.00 through the Mission Giving program of United Methodist Women may become a "5-Star Person"!

Do you realize this is only \$5.00 a month, less than \$1.20 a week, and just over 16 cents a day? The \$60 donation is broken down into these categories: \$5.00 Pledge to Mission; 40.00 Special Mission Recognition, which includes a handsome gold pin to present to the individual of your choice; \$5.00 Gift to Mission, with one of an assortment of attractive greeting cards for family member or friend; \$5.00 Gift in Memory, also with a card for you to send to the family on the passing of a loved one; and World Thank

Offering. You will also receive a 5-point star pin to recognize your giving.

The really exciting part of this program, of course, is that the money you donate when you become a 5-Star Person helps United Methodist Women support mission projects locally, throughout the United States, and around the world. And just in case the current economic situation has limited your ability to contribute at this level at this time, please remember that a monetary pledge is **not** required to participate in UMW activities. Each woman has unique gifts to contribute UMW. These include giving the time and energy it takes to prepare and serve food, set up and clean up, sell fund-raising items, take minutes, handle money and keep records,, lead prayer and devotions, assemble kits and prepare shipments. **All** contributions to the mission projects of United Methodist Women are encouraged, welcomed, and valued.

The Detroit Conference News

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News From The Districts

Ann Arbor District

By Winona Church, President

The Ann Arbor District 2009 Mission Team is up and running with three new elected members.

Our district Spiritual Growth Retreat is scheduled for Judson Collins Center on April 24 & 25. Sandra Ruby will lead the event; her subject is "Four Women and a Girl – Making of Leaders." Two of our team members met Sandra at the Jurisdiction meeting last year, were delighted with her insight and humor, and invited her to come to Michigan for us.

We have the needed 20 registrations for our Mission Trip to New York City. Several registrations have come from other districts. We are also hosting a bus trip to Red Bird Missionary Conference for July 23 – 26.

Three Clusters are recognized in our District. Two of them function well. We have distributed a newsletter article explaining the function of Shepherds, and in the newsletter we listed each church and the woman who is their connection with the District their shepherd, or their cluster leader.

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Detroit East District

By Brenda Street, President

Prayer Breakfast: The first event for the year was the Day Apart for Prayer held at Beverly Hills United Methodist Church. It fulfilled the Purpose of knowing God and experiencing freedom as whole persons. Tapuwa Mumbiro shared a spiritual experience whereby we understood the power of prayer.

The Mission Workshop: was held at Troy Korean UMC. What a wonderful atmosphere to learn about first hand experiencing the story about Palestine and Jerusalem presented by Milli Lynn Johnson.

Spiritual Life Retreat, May 8-9 2009 at Lake Huron Retreat Center: This year when you arrive there will be gathering, feed the mind, body and soul. Come and develop a creative supportive fellowship at Lake Huron Retreat Center. This is your time to get in touch with nature as well as to develop your Spiritual Growth with Rev. Tara Sutton.

Annual Meeting and Ingathering: We are looking forward to our sharing this event at Metropolitan United Methodist Church on (continued on page 7).

Detroit West District

By Jeanine Klay, President

Greetings from Detroit West District. Our successful Leadership Training Day was held on February 14. The entire Mission Team was out in force to train twenty one local unit officers about their duties of the job. They all went home ready to get to work. Expect more readers and more 5 Star Units in 2009.

At the Prayer Breakfast Rev. Elizabeth Librande asked if we were "Feeding God's Sheep". She was a dynamic speaker and everyone went away with many thoughts on how to follow through on her challenges.

Set aside October 10 to go to St. Timothy UMC for our Annual Meeting.

Dates have been set for 2010; Local Leadership Training, Feb. 13 at Peoples UMC, Detroit; Prayer Breakfast, March 13 at Farmington First UMC; Annual Meeting, Oct. 9 at Southfield Hope UMC .

Remember Mission School of the South and the 2 day Mission School. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Look for more information elsewhere in newsletter. Have a good summer.

Peace be with you.

Flint District

By Esther Alderman, President

Flint District had a beautiful Prayer Breakfast on March 13th at the Goodrich United Methodist Church. Nearly 300 ladies and gentlemen attended. The Goodrich UMW were excellent hostesses, and the Cranberry Restaurant in Goodrich served a wonderful breakfast. A young lady, relative of our Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Jeffalone Rumph, sang a couple beautiful songs. Rev. Karl Zeigler was an excellent assistant, helping with everything we needed.

Flint District is planning a Social Action Tea at the Eastwood Church on April 22nd. The subject is Coal Plants in Michigan presented by Tiffany Hartung. If you would care to attend, please call me, at 810-629-8862, or our Social Action Director Karen Steele, 1-989-871-2918.

In October, Fenton UMW will host the Detroit Conference UMW Annual Celebration and Meeting. It will be an exciting program, with Women's Division Director Jackie Euper as featured speaker. We hope you can all attend.

Looking forward to a wonderful spring and summer, working together, attending Schools of Christian Mission, Social Action Tea, and putting together the Arrow. Looks like a busy year again.

Marquette District

By Jane Bennett, President

Why would I want to be a member of United Methodist Women?

The Detroit Conference United Methodist Women mission team met February 27 & 28, 2009 in Flint, MI

The evening of February 27 was a community building and goal setting meeting. The leader was the Rev. Faith Fowler; what a wonderful, uplifting, spiritual and fun filled meeting.

We discussed how we could make our UMW events more inviting and of interest especially to young adults 18-30 years of age. Several said they became involved with UMW because their grandmother and mother were in UMW. It was an evening out for them and they could bring their children if they didn't have a sitter.

Times have changed and women and children do not have enough time in a day with all the other activities they are involved with to come to a UMW meeting.

In the Marquette District many units have younger women and recently retired women joining UMW. They don't always come to the meetings but attend special events. At the Spiritual Growth Retreat there were three families with three

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Port Huron District

By Lynne Staples, President

We are "Beginning Again"-Renewal for the Church, for United Methodist Women, and for this Nation. What better time than during the advent of spring.

At the Conference executive meeting, we worked on our objective and goals for UMW under the support and direction of Rev, Faith Fowler. The theme is "Claim, Explain and Proclaim" the UMW Purpose. We set our goal to reach out in many ways and media to women, young, old and in-between to join us in our mission.

Angie Hart, Associate Council Director, Youth and Young Adult Programs, asked for our support of this population in their many endeavors and to be a presence with them.

Our day away this year will be at Marie Hingelberg's home on the St. Clair River in August. Marie has been one of the pioneers of the United Methodist Women and a devout active member of the United Methodist Church, serving in many capacities. Marie was recently honored in her geographical area on her birthday.

The Port Huron District United Methodist Women will hold our Spiritual Growth Retreat at the Lapeer Lions Bear Lake Camp.

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Saginaw/Bay District

By Mary Whitman, President

Having spent most of the last weekend of February in committee meetings for Detroit Conference UMW, the awareness of the many hours of meetings required to accomplish the programs of United Methodist Women is uppermost in mind. There are many of our representatives who also attend jurisdiction, regional and Women's Division meetings, as well as local unit meetings and district meetings, all to promote the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. The question has often been asked, "How do you cope with all the meetings?" Something new always comes to light and you depart nourished and challenged. We return to local unit and district meetings ready to share information and enthusiasm.

This is the year United Methodist Women celebrate 140 Years in Mission. It all started with some women meeting to find a way to send missionaries to help young girls and women in foreign countries. John Wesley, our founder of Methodism, said, "Do all the good you can ... by all the means you can ... in all the ways you can ... in all the places you can ... at all the times you can ... to all the people you can ... as long as ever you can." Do you think John Wesley would be proud of our work?

Port Huron District

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Rev. Faith Fowler will present "Hot Potatoes"; (this in the year that a School of Christian Mission new topic is "Meeting at the Table.") The retreat was held April 3-4.

Some of our team will join the Ann Arbor district to visit NYC to learn more about UMW projects and originations there. We will be staying at Alma Mathews House.

Our other mission trip will be to southern Ohio to learn more about Native American culture there, correlated with our continuing studies on Native American Survival. This is in conjunction with Saginaw-Bay District and Flint District UMW's.

May we all experience renewal and inspiration in this season. Shalom.

Marquette District

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generations of women coming to our retreat, grandma, mother, and daughter. Other events the younger women attended and supported were a Friendship Tea, Spring Salad Luncheon for a whole community, Camp Michigan clean up day and the School of Christian Mission. It is important to make sure the events are of interest to everyone.

Detroit East District

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Saturday, October 3.

The in-gathering project will reach the needs of cancer patients with hats, scarves and caps. Our Social Action chairperson has many ideas, and patterns to share with the units.

Plans for 2010: Yes, our Vice President and the Team are working hard to have events completed so you can put in on your 2010 calendar early. We want to be part of your schedule next year. We also have commitments from dynamic speakers. We are hoping to increase the attendance at all events next year

Ann Arbor District

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I am awed as I see the Holy Spirit igniting new sparks in surprising places.

Our beloved Communications Coordinator Vicki Hall, has been a steady, reliable editor for our District Newsletter for five or six years. For the last four years she has maintained the District UMW website. All of this was her way of serving UMW while confined to home with severe breathing problems. She was hospitalized at the end of February and passed away on March 4. We are looking for a newsletter editor and a web master.