



Women With a Purpose

A Publication of the East District of the United Methodist Women
Marilyn Wise, Communications Coordinator

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Submitted by Joyce Hancock



Greetings and Blessings
UMW Sisters,

What glorious weather we have had lately. Cool at night and mornings with lots of sunshine in the afternoons (most days).

Thanks to everyone who made our Officers Training such a success. I appreciate each and every one of you, especially, since I was unable to be with you as I was attending a funeral. Thanks to all the ladies at Nacogdoches FUMC for making the day so wonderful: Nancy Prince, President Nacogdoches Unit for leading the presidents' training and Dorothy Langford for coordinating the food and workers. This meeting was one of our highest attended.

Spring Celebration is just around the corner. I hope a good number of the units will be represented. So, please continue to encourage your members to register and attend.

You have supported me throughout the last year with love and consideration and I look forward to another great year in 2009. Blessings.

A WORD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Submitted by Susan Muzny

I wasn't able to be at the Local Officer Training on January 17th, but I understand it was a great gathering. The Nacogdoches First UMW did a lot of preparation for the event and I'm sorry that I missed the baked potatoes and other goodies. There were about 75 in attendance and from the evaluations that I read, the training went well. I'm thankful for the district officers who led the training and for all of the local officers who attended. Hopefully everyone received the information she needed to help local units have a successful and productive year. I would encourage local officers to contact their district counterparts if they have any questions. Also, I would encourage units to share ideas about

good speakers and programs. You can do this by writing a short article for the newsletter and sending it to our communications coordinator, Marilyn Wise. You can also send contact information to me about guest speakers and I will pass on the information to local vice presidents.

I hope that you are making plans to attend the Conference Spring Celebration March 7th at Lakeview and District Spring Celebration March 28th at Trinity FUMC. The theme for both is "For Christ's Sake TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN".

At the district meeting we will have a remembrance service and have recognition awards for Mission Today, reading program, and treasurers. Our speaker for the plenary will be the pastor from Trinity, Jeff McDonald. You will have a choice of 3 great focus groups.

Jerry Peperone will speak to us about the work of the Wesley House in Houston which receives funding from our UMW pledges. The Livingston UMW is planning a visit to the center on April 2nd and would like to invite anyone interested in a tour to go with us. You can sign up at the focus group or contact me before the date. Also, Wesley Center collects Campbell soup labels for their projects, so bring those along if you have a chance to collect any before then.

A second focus group will be led by Sue Nason who is the mission chair at Livingston FUMC. She will talk about a new mission project at Livingston called Feed My Sheep. It is a project to bag rice to feed the hungry. You will have an opportunity to sign up to bring your unit or church to Livingston to help if you are interested.

Nancy Heintz, director of Christian Education at Conroe FUMC, will lead our third focus group. She will speak about Faith Forming Relationships. You will receive a flyer before the district event, but please mark March 28 on your calendar now. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH HINTS

Submitted by Lue Wenzel

As Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the district, I would like to give you a summary of the responsibilities of this office. You provide opportunities for women to realize personal growth and spiritual renewal for mission. You are the leaven for the unit, in that you bring a spirit that encourages good team relationships in the Executive Committee.

Spiritual growth includes participating in mission that is expressed through community witness, social involvement, and support of the global ministries of our denomination. There are many opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal; we should be involved in Bible study and theology that enhance our understanding of mission, put our faith into action, offer opportunities for women to participate in prayer and meditation and learn about spiritual practices.

Some of the resources that we can use are spiritual growth studies for UMW that are used at the Schools of Christian Mission, *Response* and *New World Outlook* magazines and the *Prayer Calendar*. We should enable members of our unit to develop their personal spiritual life. Living prayerfully through meditation, music, walking, intercession, and journaling nurtures a rich communion with God.

The purpose of Mission Today is to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. All members of the unit should be involved in completing the items on the list. As Spiritual Growth Coordinator of your unit it will be your responsibility to see that items #1, 4, 11, 14, and 18 are carried out. Several items are shared with other coordinators while many pertain to the whole unit.

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Submitted by Susan Lewis

The new year has gotten off to a wonderful start for the East District UMW. The Local Officers' Training held at FUMC in Nacogdoches was filled with the spirit of fellowship as we gathered together in the Family Life Center and then as we proceeded to our training sessions. Every seat in my Secretary's training room was full and I think we had a wonderful time together learning about the task of recording the meetings and keeping the roll for our local UMW units. New 2009 East District directories were distributed and so every unit should have a copy of the information needed to run your unit, including contact information for each officer of the East District and also the Conference and Local Units. The Directory also has a page entitled "Important Things to Know", which has contact information and

websites for UMCOR, Mission Resource Center, Women's Division, and other helpful organizations. Please make sure that every officer of your unit has access to the 2009 East District Directory. Your unit might consider making copies of the directory for your officers. Please e-mail and let me know of any changes in contact information, especially including changes in email address of any of the officers of your unit. Thanks to all for such a great start to a brand new, hopeful year.

P.S. The e-mail address for East District Nominations Chair, Marion McWhorter, was inadvertently left off of the East District Officers page. Marion's email is faxmac@eastex.net.

P.P.S. Carthage UMW has a new President, so please pencil in her information in your directory. She is Barbara Roe, 188 CR 304, Carthage, 75633. Telephone 903-693-6302

LENDING LIBRARY

Submitted by Billie Jones

Good news to all of you who use the lending library of reading program books! Jasper UMW has donated a number of books to the lending library. THANK YOU, JASPER! Donations are always gratefully accepted. If others of you have books that have been read, and you have a need to make room for new books, please donate your books to our lending library. It really helps our units to stretch their budgets by borrowing some of these books.

WHAT UMW MEANS TO ME

Submitted by Marion McWhorter

In the last fifteen years God has blessed me to be able to serve Him by being a part of the United Methodist Women. There have been Geographical Studies that broaden my mind and touched my heart as I read about children of God all over the world. There were pictures and videos showing God's creation too beautiful for words. Sometimes the faces from far away seemed to be the person next door. Expressions of joy and gladness, of pain and woe seemed to leap from the pages of "study books" and Response or Mission Today magazines.

The fellowship and camaraderie I have experienced when I visited other local units still warms my heart. The special faces I look forward to seeing when I attend District and Conference events mean so very much to me. The hugs and smiles that seem to say, "Yes, dear sister, we are one with the Lord." We truly are a **community** of women, organized to know God and to experience the freedom we received

through Jesus Christ as we support one another and reach out to all peoples.

We seem to have a hunger that is filled only when we give of our time, our resources, or our talents. Yet, I feel that I must ask: If no one will commit to serving God as officers in a local unit, district or conference office, who will help make *baby layettes* destined for Africa or Lufkin, Texas? How will the monies be raised to fill *flood buckets* to send to Houston, Texas, or Florida? Who will donate supplies needed to assemble *health kits* for school children in Onalaska, Texas, or the Indian Reservation in New Mexico or Newton County, Texas?

Our cries for help were raised to God... He sent Jesus Christ... Now He calls you to serve. The benefits are beyond compare. Come serve!

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE EVENT

Submitted by Barbara Watson

The 21st Annual Texas United Methodist Women's Legislative Event, held January 25-27, 2009, in Austin, Texas, "Testing Texas," was well attended and very informative. The title of the conference itself was inspiring. Texas Impact (people of faith working for justice) did an outstanding job providing dynamic and qualified speakers on the issues chosen for consideration; such as, Health Insurance Issues, State Revenue Issues, Energy Issues, Citizen Action and Texas' Political Future.

On Monday, the 26th, the attendees moved to the State Capitol to keep appointments with Texas Legislators. The Lobby Visits were exciting and educational, to say the least. The Legislative Reception, held in the Legislative Conference Center, was well attended and individual Legislators were introduced by a United Methodist Woman from their respective Districts. Delicious refreshments were provided by the UMW and the day was topped off back at the Doubletree Hotel by dinner and a special speaker, Mr. Mustafa Tameez, representing Outreach Strategists.

On Tuesday the 27th, "Room at the Table? Immigration Issues" was the topic of presentations made by representatives of Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops, Muslim Freedom and Justice Foundation, and Baptist Christian Life Commission. The two day event was ended with the topic "Taking Legislative Event Back Home," presented by the Texas Impact Staff.

It would be impossible to share all the issues we discussed and impress upon all of you the

importance of this event. Social Action Officers from each District within each Conference (seven conferences were represented) held a caucus following Monday's events and discussed and voted on the issues each conference felt they would like to adopt for the coming year. The results of each Conference's voting was tallied and the issues for the year were compiled: #1 - Health and Insurance; #2 - Environment (Nets); #3 - Emigration and Human Trafficking: The New Slavery. These are the topics (issues) you will be hearing about the most. If you would like to learn more about these issues, you may log onto www.texasimpact.org. You may sign up with Texas Impact to receive regular updates and additional information.

E & I NEWS

Submitted by Pat Smith

I apologize to all of the E & I officers for not being at the training. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions. There has been a small change on the Mission Today form, and the Hands On Project for this year is the school supplies. Please encourage your units to begin collecting for this much needed project.

BEWARE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS

Submitted by Billie Jones

I don't know about you, but trying to conserve more energy, I bought a lot of those funny looking bulbs. I am using them for now, but was appalled to learn about all the risks, how to dispose of them, etc. You may be more knowledgeable, but was I surprised that I couldn't toss one in the garbage when it burns out. Since it contains mercury, the bulb is considered "hazardous waste", and has to be taken to a facility that handles that type of material. For those that live in the city, Home Depot is providing the service of disposing of them. Now tell me how am I saving energy if I have to drive somewhere to dispose of a light bulb?

There is more. Heaven forbid that you should drop one and it breaks. Open your windows to air out your house and go outside for at least 15 minutes. I hope it doesn't occur during a hurricane or a snow storm. DO NOT VACUUM up the remains. That would be even more unhealthy. Pick up what you can of the glass and put in a plastic bag, then wet paper towels to pick up the remnants and put in same plastic bag. Take the bag with fragments, paper towels, etc. to a proper waste disposal site.

Supposedly within a few years this is the only bulb we will be able to buy, unless consumers do

something about it. How many thousands will not know about the danger of the mercury? How many people will get mercury poisoning as this goes into our landfills and ground water? One congressman is protesting: Poe from Louisiana. I think we all need to get on the bandwagon. 100% of the bulbs are made in China. They are going to get us one way or another. Let's all buy Mr. Edison's bulb. It has served us well for over a hundred years.

AN INVITATION FROM TRINITY

Submitted by Lue Wenzel

As President of Trinity UMW, I want to make sure that everyone is making plans to attend the Spring District meeting at FUMC Trinity on March 28, 2009. Susan has worked hard on the program. I am proud to announce that our pastor Jeff McDonald will be the speaker. We are looking forward to having all the ladies from the East District to attend. This will be our first time to host for the East District.

NACOGDOCHES FIRST OFF TO A GREAT START

Submitted by Nancy Prince

"Together at the Table" was selected as this year's theme for United Methodist Women at First Methodist Church in Nacogdoches. On January 11, executive committee members gathered "at the table" to evaluate past activities, events, missions, and programs and plan the upcoming ones. Six unit meeting luncheons, a church-wide lunch on UMW Sunday, and a UMW 140th birthday party/membership tea were planned. The luncheon meetings will follow the second worship service on Sunday mornings. Other events planned were a bake sale in March, a field trip to the UMW Luncheon at the Texas Annual Conference in May, and a summer mission encounter to The Methodist Children's Home in Waco in July.

The unit's membership focus this past year was to be deliberately invitational. In February of 2008, a Sunday Night Soup Supper Social, open to all women of the church, resulted in the formation of two new night circles and increased membership in the five established ones. To insure circle success and stability, veteran UMW members mentored the new groups by attending their meetings, providing several programs, and even opening their homes and hosting the meetings. This mentorship method provided an intergenerational opportunity for church women to bond.

Many of the unit's new members work and have young children, so Sunday meetings, with a nursery,

were planned to encourage attendance. The first meeting, February 8, will be potluck, and the Rev. Terry Smith will introduce the spiritual growth study *I Believe in Jesus* which will be continued in individual circles.

GREETINGS FROM ONALASKA

Submitted by Paulette Stinson

Greetings from the Onalaska United Methodist Women. We were formed as a unit in the early 1980's and we meet the first Tuesday of every month for fellowship, spiritual and educational enlightenment and to conduct the business of our unit.

We are a busy group of 25 to 30 women who are big on supporting the small city of Onalaska, Texas and Polk County, with emphasis on women and children in need. We provide monetary gifts to Onalaska ISD scholarship and needy assistance programs and volunteer our time to assist the Kids Free Clothing Exchange in Onalaska.

To further contribute locally and statewide, we have various fund raising projects. This year we will have UMW Feasts on four Sundays to raise funds, and our annual bake sale and handmade quilt drawing will be held in November. Every year we have a membership luncheon to promote our unit and the work that we do in service to our LORD.

Our monthly programs often include guest speakers who educate us and enlighten us on issues and concerns in our community and even around the world. We can usually squeeze in a couple of day trips too. These are so much fun and the fellowship is invaluable. Nine of us women stuffed ourselves into a van and attended the Local Officer Training in Nacogdoches on January the 17th. Thank you for a wonderful lunch and learning experience.

LAKE RAYBURN GEARS UP

Submitted by Mollie Marshall

The Lake Rayburn UMW Unit held its first meeting in 2009 on January 5th. We spent time getting organized and planning for our year and then became quiet for our program which called us to prayer and self denial. We have a small group of loyal members. Our officers attended officer training at Nacogdoches FUMC and we thank those UMW members and officers for a very informative and pleasant meeting. We are looking forward to completing many of the tasks on the "Mission Today 2009" list.

LIVINGSTON MAKING PLANS

Submitted by Grace Baker

At our executive board meeting, we discussed having a spiritual retreat at the president Suzanne Ganzer's farm in the spring and also perhaps going as a group to see the movie "Gran Torino" as part of the racial justice program. One of our members went to see it and said it would be a wonderful example. It is coming here to the movie theater in Livingston, but we do not have the date yet. We also had a great program on "Feed My Sheep" which will be a new mission project where we will help bag rice to feed the hungry here in Polk County.

HEMPHILL FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Barbara Watson

Our members are working and planning one of our most important events of the year: UMW's Annual Bake Sale and Rummage Sale, to be held Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7, 2009, at First United Methodist Church of Hemphill, in the Fellowship Hall. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. on Friday and close at 4:00 p.m. Saturday's hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. For more information, call the Church Office at 409-787-2183.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the hospitality of Nacogdoches United Methodist Church UMW in hosting Local Officers' Training. As usual, the food was outstanding, the meetings went smoothly, and the meeting spaces were comfortable. Our thanks and regards to each of you. It's so good to meet our Sisters in Christ and have the opportunity to share ideas and concerns.

UMW EAST DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 7 Conference Spiritual Growth
Retreat/Spring Celebration, Lakeview
- March 28 District Spiritual Growth Retreat/Spring
Celebration, Trinity UMC
- May 24-27 Annual Conference, The Woodlands
- May 25 Annual Conference UMW Luncheon, The
Woodlands
- July 23-25 Conference School of Christian Mission,
Lon Morris Jr. College, Jacksonville
- Aug. 15 District School of Christian Mission,
Carthage UMC
- Oct. 2-3 Conference Fall Festival/Annual Meeting,
Lakeview
- Oct. 17 District Fall Festival/Annual Meeting,
Jasper UMC