



SHREVEPORT DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Grapevine

Because we are connected to Christ, Christ can touch others through us.

Shreveport, LA

MAY 2009

Shirley Ledbetter, President

District President's Report

Greetings to all Shreveport District United Methodist Women.

Retreat

I want to start off with an enthusiastic thank you to Patte Folts and her team for a most uplifting, spiritual retreat. What a fantastic day. If ever God was with a group of women, He was with us Saturday, April 25th. If you were unable to attend the retreat at the Owl Center, you missed a great day. Hope you can join us next year.

Again thank you Patte and your team. The one word I think of to express the affect that the retreat had on us is "*Hallelujah*"!!

District Calendar

All presidents of the local units look at the 2009 Shreveport District Calendar. There are a number of reports due before the next newsletter will be out. Meet with your local officers and review those reports that will be due. Treasure report 2nd quarter is May 15, Women in Mission nominees due June 1, Social Action report due June 15, Reading Program report due July 10th, Conference School of Mission July 22-25, and Mission Today unit report due August 1st. If I can be of any assistance, call me at 318-746-4980.

Sharing the Newsletter

I have been asked to find a means to keep Shreveport District United Methodist Women informed of local and state current information. The cost of printing and mailing prohibits the District from sending the newsletter to all members of UMW in the Shreveport District. Those of you on the mailing list, if you could please share the newsletter or make copies and pass them to the local office holders, this will enable a broader range of members to stay current.

For state news, watch the "Louisiana Now" which most churches probably subscribe to. It is also available online at www.la-umc.org/lanow. There are informative articles in many of the mailings and a couple times a year UMW provided all the news that is published in the "Louisiana Now."

Estelle Dameron Scholarship

The Estelle Dameron Scholarship committee reports the program is low on money reserves. The Estelle Dameron Scholarship funds are used to finance first time participants to the School of Christian Mission. If the local units are able to help finance this scholarship program, please send a monetary gift to the District Treasurer labeled for the Estelle Dameron Scholarship Fund. Those monetary gifts will be forwarded to the state treasurer for proper distribution. Let's get behind this scholarship fund and enable new women to attend the School of Christian Mission

Shirley Ledbetter
Shreveport District President
318-746-4980

District Secretary

Thank you all who sent in the information for our 2009 Louisiana Conference Directory, "Resurrect the Earth". There is one change to make, however. On page 27, Our President, Shirley Ledbetter's phone number is one digit off it should be: 746-4980. Please make this change in your book. If your unit does not have theirs yet, they are \$3.00 and Shirley Ledbetter has them.

I heard from many of the units in Shreveport for our district but about 12 didn't respond. If you have new officers and did not send them to me, it is not too late. I can still update for our records.

September is the date to elect new officers so be alert to who you can nominate now before summer comes and many of us do not meet. I will need the list for new officers by **September 30, 2009** if possible. We are so glad you are a part of United Methodist Women and want to keep you informed of all that is happening in our district and state.

Thank you andHave a great day!!
Pat Mosher, District Secretary

Reading program

Greetings to each of you,

The Reading Program has existed in one form or another since 1870 when references to a recommended plan of reading were mentioned in *Heathen Women's Friend*, a magazine of the Methodist Episcopal Church Women's Foreign Missionary Society. Are we still a part of the 139 year old reading program? YES, YES, YES. Reading increases sensitivity to all human beings – their needs, interests and concerns; it encourages critical thinking about issues facing humanity; and we grow in understanding of Scriptures as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.

All books on the Reading Program list are stocked at the Mission Resource Center. There are four reading plans that you may choose from and **Study Books do count** in the Reading Program. The reading program runs from July 1st to June 30th of the next year – the report (enclosed) is due to me by July 10th each year. Take time to READ!

I will have the new **Study Books** for sale at the District Mini-School of Missions on August 29th at Benton UMC. **This is the only time I will have them for sale** and then I have to ship back the unsold ones. They are: *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan* (\$10.00), *Food and Faith* (\$7.00), and *Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival* (\$10.00). I hope to have the new Mission Resource Catalogs, Reading Program and other free materials available for you.

God's Blessings on You,
Sharon Shepherd
Secretary of Program Resources

Local unit news

St. Luke's UMW

Rev. Terry Love conducted the study "I Believe in Jesus". The classes were well attended.

In April our study on "Israel and Palestine" was continued by Mary Gleason, our instructor, who gave us a "timeline" and explained it. Mary will complete the study in May, which will be followed by a luncheon.

Elinor Herd
President

Money Moments

"...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"



Thanks to each of you for your first quarter reports. Many of our units are working hard to earn a **5-STAR CERTIFICATE**. Your unit must (1) present a **Special Mission Recognition Pin**, (2) send a **Gift to Mission card**, (3) send a **Gift in Memory card**, (4) send **World Thank Offering**, and (5) make a **Pledge to Mission**. If you have a question about what your unit has or has not done, please call me.

It's time for you to send me your 2nd quarter report – due by May 15th. Check that you are sending your report to me and not Judy Nugent. If you have not already sent it, please remember to include the amount (\$1.00 per member) for A&MD (Administration & Membership Development). A portion of this money comes back to help pay the expenses of the district. Thanks to all of you for your good work in submitting the reports for your units. Please contact me if you have a question. Remember our Pledge to Mission Cards. A special card to someone helps us reach our pledge to mission and is one of the channels toward earning the 5-Star Certificate awarded each year. May is a special month to send one of these cards as we celebrate Mother's Day, graduation, birthdays to name just a few.

You will soon receive the form for your Candle Minutes for the Conference and District Annual Meetings. You will also receive a letter regarding your gifts toward honoring our retiring officers. Some of this money is held within the District and the remainder is sent on to the Conference. Many units will not be meeting during the summer and these offerings are due to be turned in by September. It will be very helpful for me if your unit will take care of this as soon as you receive the information.

Enjoy your summer. May you have many special times with family and friends.

In Christ's love,

Mary Lou Hughes
District Treasurer
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Bossier City, LA 71111-5933
Phone: 318-746-9427 Email: ReadmaryL@aol.com

ARE YOU ONE OF THE 75%?

A goal of United Methodist Women is that at least 75 percent of all units will be Mission Today Units by the end of the quadrennium. Education and Interpretation Coordinators and/or Presidents, you will soon be receiving by mail the form and other information to help you determine whether or not your unit qualifies for this distinction. It isn't too late to make sure that your unit meets the requirements to qualify. Check the list of requirements and many of you will find you have already met enough of them to earn this status. If not, you still have time to do this.

Report Forms for Mission Today Units must be returned to me by August 1, 2009. Since many of your units don't meet during the summer, you may want to discuss this at your May meetings.

Mission Study Reports will need to be turned in by June 1, 2009. Copies of these forms will also be included in the packet being mailed out this week. Watch for this information. I will be mailing packets to E & I Coordinators if I have a name and address for one from your unit. ***Presidents***, please watch for a packet if your unit doesn't have a coordinator. Follow up on both these reports to be sure that information for your unit is sent in.

You will be receiving two forms for Mission Study Reports: one form is for the two hour studies and the other is for the four hour studies. There are different Certificates awarded for these depending on the length of your study. PLEASE make copies of the forms if you are completing more than one study.

Don't miss out on receiving the awards your unit has earned because no one sent in the information. Help the Shreveport District to set an example for the other districts in being one of the first to have 75% of our units meeting the requirements as a Mission Today Unit.

If you have any questions about any of this information, please feel free to call me at 318-326-5012 or e-mail me at jmnu-gent@centurytel.net. If you haven't received the packet by Monday, May 11, please let me know. May God bless you for all you do as United Methodist Women.

Judy Nugent
Shreveport District E & I Coordinator

The next newsletter articles are due on August 3rd. Email to janiceflannery@bellsouth.net or fax to 318-686-2543 or mail to 9039 Cherry Ridge Blvd., Greenwood, LA 71033.

The current Grapevine is also on the Shreveport District website. Visit www.gbgm-umc.org/shdis and click on UMW.

The Grapevine

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News from local units

