

# United Methodist Women News

The United Methodist Church • Southwest Texas Conference

Supplement to United Methodist *Witness*

December 14, 2007

## Local UMW secretaries must send addresses

by Joyce Brown  
Secretary

United Methodist Women all over South Texas are accepting the challenge to serve as local UMW officers in 2008. Through your faithfulness to God's Mission, you have committed yourself and your gifts to ministries that help relieve the suffering and improve the quality of life for women, children and youth.

As elected leaders of the local UMW, you become part of the local leadership of more than 25,000 local units in our country and more than 50,000 congregations around the world.

Local secretaries, please send your roster of officers to your District secretary as soon as you elect officers for 2008-2009. Even if all the current ones are remaining in the same position, we need that information. It is used for the *Witness* mailings and conference and district UMW mailings. If you do not know to whom to send the information, please contact me at [Jbrown2@suddenlink.net](mailto:Jbrown2@suddenlink.net) or (361) 578-3070.

**South Central Jurisdiction meeting**  
**March 28-30**  
**Albuquerque, N.M.**

## PURPOSE

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.



## Workshop leaders announced for young women's mission awareness weekend

By Glenda Sanders  
Event Chairperson

The Southwest Texas and the Rio Grande Conferences of United Methodist Women will be hosting a Young Women's Mission Awareness Event for women ages 13-25 at Mount Wesley in Kerrville Dec. 28-30. Event chairpersons are Glenda Sanders and Hope Garza of Corpus Christi. The theme is "What Does the Lord Require?" based on Micah 6:8.

Check-in begins at 3 p.m. Dec. 28. Our first gathering will be at 5:45 p.m. in the Nutrition Center for dinner and welcome instructions. Then we'll continue our weekend with a "Foot Prints Praise Service" from 7-9 p.m. in the activity center. Wear your crocs or favorite flip flops to worship on Friday evening! The event will end at 11 a.m. Dec. 30.

All young women ages 17 and younger must be accompanied by and room with their chaperone, who is to be age 26 or older. Women ages 26 and older are invited to attend; however, the content will be geared toward the younger age group this year.

The Rev. Wanda Peszczyński Ritchea of Victoria is to lead the Bible study on Micah 6:8. Ritchea is an ordained deacon in full connection with The United Methodist Church. She is certified in Chris-

tian Education and has been serving in campus ministry for more than 15 years.

Workshops to be offered include:

**MISSION: SEEKING JUSTICE:** Explore the UMW purpose with "emphasis on expanding concepts of mission." Discuss putting faith into action as part of our Christian responsibility through mission opportunities and education. Led by Maudi Van Winkle of New Braunfels.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG WOMEN:** Me? A leader? From the basics to more advanced training, learn about your personal leadership style, the skills and attitudes for responsibilities and effective leadership and how to lead together with others. Use self-study materials developed by Women's Division just for you. Led by Women's Division Director, Teresa Navarro of Mission.

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH:** Discuss basic principles of Christian meditation, contemplative prayer and model lectio divina and centering prayer. Led by the Rev. Wanda Ritchea and Campus Ministry Group from Victoria.

**LITURGICAL MOVEMENT:** Express prayer and song with the art of liturgical movements. Practice for presentation at Campfire Worship. Led by Pat Stewart of Austin.

**PRAISE GOD WITH SONG:** Sing together. Practice for closing com-

munion service. Led by the GODivas: Debra Scott, Rhonda Henslee, Mary Clark and Debbie Pinkerton.

**HOT ISSUES:** Where do United Methodists stand? Join us as we seek to raise awareness of The United Methodist Church's positions on various social issues and facilitate respectful discussion about differences of opinion. Led by Glenda Sanders of Corpus Christi, past member of the Board of Church and Society.

There will be designated free time to hike to the Bolivian Cross, walk the labyrinth, have our traditional campfire, do arts and crafts and watch and enjoy the deer roaming the campus. The GODivas, an all female musical group from Corpus Christi, will provide music again this year.

Registration fee is \$135 per person (includes five meals and two nights dormitory style lodging). Child care is available for ages 5 and younger for \$75 (includes room, meals with parent and nursery care). Make check payable to SWTC UMW and mail with all forms to Registrar, Terry Schoenert, 2907 Barrel Oak St., San Antonio, TX 78231.

For registration forms or scholarship information, contact Glenda Sanders at (361) 992-7985 or by e-mail at [glenda@grandecom.net](mailto:glenda@grandecom.net).

## Women on mission tour bus trip to visit mission sites, UMW Quadrennial meeting in March

by Joyce Brown  
SWTC Secretary & Bus Tour Coordinator

Come, get on board and see how we are "Called by Name as Resurrection Women" as we travel to and from Albuquerque March 25-April 1. The Southwest Texas Conference United Methodist Women have chartered a bus to visit mission sites. Spouses, friends, older teenage girls and women from other conferences are all welcome.

For more information or to request a reservation form, contact Joyce Brown at (361) 578-3070 or [jbrown2@suddenlink.net](mailto:jbrown2@suddenlink.net). The dead-

line to reserve your seat is Feb. 1.

The cost is \$475 for eight days and seven nights. Make checks payable to SWTC UMW and mail to Joyce Brown, 404 Dover, Victoria, TX 77905. Meals are on you own. Cost includes lodging en route and in Albuquerque. We will stay two to a room on the road and four to a room in Albuquerque.

Pickup points will be scheduled around the conference on March 25. Alpine will be our first night's stop, then we will tour Alpine Community Center the morning of the March 26. That afternoon we will travel to El Paso to tour Houchen

Community Center and spend the night.

March 27, we will drive to Albuquerque, and that afternoon we will either tour another mission site or do some sightseeing.

March 28-30 will be the Quadrennial Meeting activities. After the closing and lunch on our own on March 30, we will drive to Amarillo for the night. A tour of Amarillo Community Center is scheduled for March 31 before departing for San Angelo for the night.

April 1 sees everyone being dropped off and returning home.

## District leaders have major responsibilities

District Presidents have a major responsibility in advancing all phases of the work of United Methodist Women. The districts are the direct link between the local unit of UM Women in the local church and the Southwest Texas Conference UM Women and to the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries.

The district presidents for 2008 are Margaret Glueck, Austin District; Dianne Rumfield, Corpus Christi District; Schatzie Norris, Kerrville District; Shirley Melton, McAllen District; Dianne Simpson, San Angelo District; Lillie B. Williams, San Antonio District; and Nancy Maples, Victoria District.

District presidents preside over all meetings of the district organization and its executive committee and serve as an ex officio member of all other committees, where they exist, except the Committee on Nominations; work with the Executive Committee in receiving, evaluating and preparing reports; sign with the secretary all official and legal papers and orders on the treasury; serve as the contact person for local unit presidents, provide resources, and conduct training at least annually, as determined by the Executive Committee; develop, with the Executive Committee, a program of regular local and district unit or cluster visitation to promote the UM Women purpose; develop, with the Executive Committee, a plan to urge local and district units to become Mission Today Units, using the criteria received from the conference; incorporate elements of Mission Today into the ongoing program of the district; serve as a member of the conference Executive Committee; represent, or designate someone to represent, UM Women wherever opportunities are afforded by the district.

**Young Women's  
mission awareness  
event  
Dec. 28-30  
Mount Wesley  
Conference Center  
Kerrville, TX**

## Thanks be to God for his many wonders

by Sue Sidney  
UMW President

It is the day before thanksgiving as I sit to finally write some thoughts for the United Methodist Women newsletter. The pumpkin pie for my daughter is in the oven; the chocolate pie for my son is in the refrigerator. Perhaps my husband is right when he says that the food gets better when the children are coming home!

We were challenged in Sunday School last week to prepare a statement on who God is to us. This has been permeating my thoughts (working in my background mode as we old computer programmers say). I have been getting out the old cardboard turkey that we hang on the door so that each year we can write on there what we are thankful for.

I am crying with my cousin whose second brother died at age 57 last Monday. I am crying with Rosemary Creamer as hospice starts for her husband. I am crying with the women and children in Bangladesh who are struggling again to survive.

I am laughing while my granddaughter, Taylor, plays and talks with such sincerity and snuggles next to me to fall asleep. My soul is soaring as the CD plays some Leonard Cohen or those favorite hymns a friend gave to me. I am rejoicing as I pick fresh spinach and the last of the little Roma tomatoes

## New treasurer to take over conference position

By Rosemary Creamer  
Treasurer

As I reflect on leaving this position after serving four years, the one thought that keeps coming to me is how faithful the giving is. I have seen the sacrifice that our older members have made and continue to make because they are passionate about our PURPOSE. I see their example being modeled by our younger members. United Methodist Women has offered me a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our organization while meeting so many incredible women.

I am "passing the baton" to Evelyn Burleson of the Victoria district Jan. 1. Burleson has been an active member of UMW and has served in local, district and conference positions. She has served as treasurer for the Victoria District, so she has experience with this position.

Burleson also has a passion for social action. She has worked with the office of Economic Opportunity for the state of Texas and is a retired parole officer. She is Calhoun County Democratic chairperson and works actively in many local civic organizations.

She and her husband, Jack, own



Sue Sidney  
UMW President  
Southwest Texas  
Conference



for tomorrow's feast. What excitement when my husband, David, calls to say he had caught three bass—keepers too—out at the lake on this perfect weather day!

I am thinking about beginning this next year with a new Mission Team for the conference. I am so elated to be serving through UMW! I have been truly blessed by the women whom I have gotten to know and to become friends. Isn't it exciting to know that anywhere in South Texas you can find a friend to help if needed or to share with as needed. I know that this new team will come together and grow and expand our concepts of being in mission.

I was in Nashville at the Regional School Planning Team training a couple of weeks ago. Women from all of the five jurisdictions in the country were there representing their conferences of UMW. A young woman from Alaska traveled many hours to be in Nashville for this training.

and operate Burleson Tax and Financial services in Port Lavaca. She has one son, four step daughters, eight grandchildren and two cats.

The following information should be shared in your local unit:

In October of 2007 the Women's Division directors set the division's 2008 budget in excess of \$19 million, including more than \$10 million for national and international ministries and more than \$5 million for member programs and service reported Yvette Moore.

How does this budget impact you and me? It means that our mission giving as individuals must continue at the same level or, even better, at an increased level. Our daily expenses will see increases with higher fuel costs. However, the needs of the women, children and youth that we have served

I noticed on the list of attendees a woman from Scotia, New York, which is nearby our hometowns. I went to the table where the Northeast Jurisdiction women were sitting and asked for the lady from Scotia. I told her that I needed to refresh my soul and could not return to my roots this year so thought that talking to her would do it! She laughed lovingly. We talked. I shared that David had grown up in Central Bridge, New York, and she exclaimed that she had just the previous weekend done a Lay Speakers training there in his little United Methodist church. My soul soared.

Later in the day she came to me with her digital camera. She had pictures of the covered bridge in Schoharie and the Old Stone Fort and the cemetery where David's folks are buried and many more with the vibrant fall colors. My soul sighed.

I am so thankful for the picture of God the UMW has outlined for me. I hope that I am able to fill with color inside those lines (and maybe go a little outside the lines) to be the love of God working in this world, at this time, in this place. Thanks be to God for working in mysterious ways many wonders to perform. Just who is God to me—I wish I were a poet and not the computer/math person, but then again the equations I love are also pictures of God to me...

faithfully over the past 137 years remain our constant priority. If as individuals we could covenant to purchase one or more gift to mission cards and add to our World Thank Offering, we, as a conference, could make a big difference. That simple addition could add more than \$10,000 toward district and conference mission giving.

Another opportunity for giving is the minute for mission. In the Southwest Texas Conference we more affectionately call this candleburning. In 2008 one minute for mission will be \$31.63 and one second for mission will be \$0.53. Candleburning was done at the district annual meetings in September and the conference annual meeting in October. What a wonderful way for a unit or circle to honor or memorialize someone at one or both of these meetings! If an individual donated a minute at either one or both of these meetings, she qualified to be a One Minute Women.

Stay focused on our PURPOSE and we as UM Women will continue to make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth for another 137 years.



Evelyn Burleson

# South Central UMW to attend quadrennial meeting

by **Glenda Sanders**  
Communications Coordinator

One task of the South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women Core Planning Group is to plan the Quadrennial Meeting March 28-30, 2008 in Albuquerque, N.M. The meeting is held during the last year of each quadrennium.

All UM Women are welcome and encouraged to attend, especially those in the South Central Jurisdiction, which includes Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. It also includes the Rio Grande and Oklahoma Missionary Conferences.

The South Central Jurisdiction UMW Web site is located at [www.gbwm-umc.org/scjurisdictionmw](http://www.gbwm-umc.org/scjurisdictionmw).

The theme "Called by Name as Resurrection Women," based on

Isaiah 43:1-13, is the centerpiece for guest speakers, workshops, music, a special calling ceremony and the sharing with one another of how God has called each of us to be his disciples.

The Bible study at the Quadrennial Meeting is to be led by J. Ann Craig with a focus on Isaiah 43. Song leader Grace Cujuiat and pianist Raquel Martinez will lead us in worship through music. We will receive inspiration and motivation from address by Kyung Za Yim and Harriet Jane Olson, newly elected Deputy General Secretary.

New officers and directors of the Women's Division will be elected. Nominees for 2008-2012 are:

President: Ilda Vasquez, Southwest Texas Conference

Vice President: Donna Roberts, Oklahoma Conference

Secretary: Stacie Hawkins, Texas Conference

Treasurer: Lois Newell, Missouri Conference

Chair, Committee on Nominations: Betty Jo Nye, New Mexico Conference

Committee on Nominations: Martha Alton, Arkansas Conference; Hope Garza, Rio Grande Conference; Stephanie Carey, Louisiana Conference; and Joyce Deere, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

Focus groups that will be offered during lunch on Saturday are:

UMW Mission Impossible, led by Lorna Anderson Moore

It's Not Easy Being Green, It's A Mission, led by Joanne Kurklin

Missionaries Telling The Story, led by panelists Saroj Welch, Nina Fowler and Margie Schowengert

Intergenerational Partnerships, led by Yvette Richards

Let's Roll Out the Red Carpet, led by Diane Vogler

Songs of Resurrection, led by Raquel Martinez and Grace Cujuiat  
We Sang in a Strange Land, led by Andrew Trotter

A Journey On the Labyrinth: Listening for a Sacred Call, led by Diane Rudebock

Registration for the event is \$175, which includes insurance, a continental breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning, lunch Saturday and Saturday evening banquet.

Hotel accommodations will be at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 800 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Room rates are \$125 for up to four people in a room, plus applicable taxes. Call (800) 237-2133.

## Annual meeting at First UMC, San Angelo, offers fellowship, educational speeches, mission giving

by **Joyce Brown**  
Secretary

We met at First UMC, San Angelo, on Oct. 12 for registration and workshops led by Cheryl Trent, Junell Treece and Sandy Wilder. That evening, a banquet was held in the Celebration Hall at the church.

The program included the blessing of the gifts brought for the Wesley Daily Bread Program; an announcement of the Christian Vocation Scholarship winners; an introduction of the 2008-2009 nominees for Southwest Texas Conference officers; a speech by Cheryl Trent, director of Mission Education and Enrichment for the General Board of Global Ministries Women's Division; and an invitation to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting to be held in San Antonio.

Saturday morning, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting was convened at 9 a.m. by a procession of the Executive Committee. After greetings and introductions by Sue Sidney, UMW President, welcomes were given by Shirley Kennedy, San Angelo District president; and Rosa Gonzales, president of the UMW at First UMC, San Angelo. Scriptures were read in English and Spanish, a hymn was sung, and Cheryl Trent gave the devotional message "Turning the World Upside Down as we rise to do the work of Christ in the world."

Following the presentation of the program, the roll call of Districts was held: Victoria, 7; San Antonio, 27; San Angelo, 30; Mc Allen, 16; Kerrville, 18; Corpus Christi, 11; and Austin, 27, for a total of 136. Sue Sidney gave her president's report by showing us her speech box and



**Gloria Scott (left), SWTC UMW mission coordinator for social action, and Sue Sidney, president of the Southwest Texas Conference UMW speak at the UMW annual meeting at First UMC, San Angelo. The meeting was held Oct. 12-13.**

talking about how we have turned the world upside down.

The Mission Candle burned 15 minutes, 4 seconds in memory and 37 minutes, 6 seconds in honor, for a total of 52 minutes, 10 seconds.

The membership report stated we had 8,006 members in 2006. Austin's Cedar Park had the highest percentage of membership increase and got to take home the banner; Windcrest UMC, San Antonio, had the highest number increase and took home the framed Purpose poster.

The SWTC Pledge to Missions for 2008 is to be \$210,000.

During lunch in the celebration hall, the Mesquite Magic Chorus of Sweet Adelines sang, and Gloria Scott made a presentation about the new Green Award. L.I.L. Gonzalez and Susan Aguilar reported on national seminar.

The afternoon session convened at 1:50 p.m. A worship service was led by Lois, with the Rev. Nathaniel Hankins, associate pastor of First UMC, San Angelo, celebrating Holy Communion. Sue Sidney sent us forth and we closed at 2:25 p.m. by singing "God Be with You Until We meet Again."

## Name for basic financial giving has changed

The name for the UM Women's basic financial giving has been changed from *undesignated giving* to Mission Giving to make it easier to tell the story of the organization's vast mission outreach. The new name says what UMW is about—**mission**—and what makes that possible—**giving**.

Mission Giving is the foundation for mission work through UM Women and the Women's Division. Your contribution enables a full and consistent response to human need, especially the needs of women, children and youth. It affirms the wholeness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a commitment to its proclamation in word and deed.

Mission giving strengthens basic programs and projects. It also makes emergency response and exploration of new and evolving areas of mission possible.

**Women's  
Legislative Event  
Jan. 27-29  
Austin, TX  
Register by Jan. 6**

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## Texas Legislative event planned for Jan. 27-29 in capital city

The UM Women legislative event is to be in Austin Jan. 27-29. Event registration fee is \$125 (includes Sunday banquet, Monday lunch and dinner and Monday presentation at the Capitol).

Event pre-registration is required and is limited to 157. Transfer of registration will be accepted at any time. After Jan. 6, event registration fee is \$140.

The program is planned by Texas IMPACT. Registration is available online by visiting [www.texasimpact.org](http://www.texasimpact.org). To register by phone or e-mail, contact Lillie B. Williams, event registrar, at (210) 661-6973 or [txlilwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:txlilwilliams@yahoo.com).

Hotel reservations should be made directly before Jan. 6, with the Doubletree Guest Suites, 303 W. 15th St., Austin, TX, 78701. Phone number for the hotel is (512) 478-7000 or (800) 222-8733.

Submit the names of guests who will be sharing a suite at the time the reservation is made. Please submit only one reservation form per suite. Each suite is equipped with a sleeper sofa and a full kitchen,

including microwave and coffee maker. Suite rates are plus tax: 1 BR/1 bed: \$159 (up to 4), 1 BR/2 beds: \$169 (up to 6), and 2 BR/3 beds, 2 bath: \$239 (up to 8). These rates are state tax exempt *only* with a church check. There is a \$12 self-parking (valet \$18) fee per night per car. Transportation from the airport will be provided by local persons upon request. The hotel is two blocks from the Capitol. A 7-11 Convenience store and a Starbucks are one-half block from the hotel.

The event begins on Jan. 27 at 3 p.m. and concludes Jan. 29 before noon.

A special presentation with a guest speaker at the Capitol on Monday afternoon is an option for those unable to attend the entire event. Cost is \$10 if postmarked by Jan. 6 and \$15 if late.

For cancellations by Jan. 19, the event registration fee, minus a \$35 administration fee, will be refunded; by Jan. 22, one-half of the event registration fee, minus a \$35 administration fee will be refunded. No refunds will be given for cancellations after Jan. 22.

## Family Pre-Advent retreat includes mission focus as families stuff Christmas stockings



Cheryl and Bill Meadows and their grandchildren deliver Christmas stockings to Gonzales Christian Assistance Ministries. The stockings were made by participants at the Family Pre-Advent retreat, Nov. 10-11 at Mt. Wesley Conference Center in Kerrville. The theme for this year's retreat was "From Bedlam to Bethlehem: Preparing to Tell the Story." Families brought items to put in the stockings for other children. The UM Women furnished items for the stockings as well. The Rev. Sue White led the retreat, which was open to all conference families. Families enjoyed sessions together and made a paper advent wreath from handprints of their family members. The children also made other crafts and decorated cookies. The closing communion service was held at the Bolivian cross.

### 2008 School of Christian

#### Mission:

July 17-20, 2008

Mt. Wesley, Kerrville

Theme: Living the Sacred

Spiritual Growth Study:

I Believe in Jesus

Geographic Study:

Israel and Palestine

Social Issue Study: Giving

Our Hearts Away: Native

American Survival (2008-

2009)

## UMW Events

### December 2007

28-30 Young Women's event, Mount Wesley Conference Center, Kerrville.

### January 2008

4-6 Leadership Development for district officers, Camp Zephyr, Mathis.  
27-29 Legislative event, Austin.

### March 2008

25-31 Bus travel to Albuquerque, N.M.  
28-30 South Central Jurisdiction meeting, Albuquerque, N.M.

### April 2008

1 Bus travel from Albuquerque, N.M.  
23-30 UMC General Conference, Fort Worth.

### May 2008

1-2 UMC General Conference, Fort Worth

### June 2008

5 Luncheon at Annual Conference, Corpus Christi

### July 2008

16-19 UMC Jurisdictional Conference, Dallas  
17-20 School of Christian Mission, Mt. Wesley, Kerrville.



### United Methodist Women Southwest Texas Conference

*The United Methodist Women of the United Methodist Church, Southwest Texas Conference, compiled and paid for this news supplement to United Methodist Witness.*

[www.gbmg-umc.org/swtxumw](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/swtxumw)