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**LOOK for  
Retreat Registration Form**

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## Moving Forward

### What Can We Do?

Joyce Clark, President

#### STRENGTHEN OUR MEMBERSHIP

“Making the Most for Mission Through Membership” is the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women’s theme for 2007. We are “Reaching for the Stars”. I hope that each of our units is encouraging, supporting and nurturing current members while widening the circle to embrace new members. Only by each of us working together can we reach our goal of increasing membership by 5% in 2007.

#### EMPHASIZE WAYS TO BE IN MISSION

To be a “Mission Today” unit one of the criteria is to use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting to pray for mission workers and projects. As I visited a local unit meeting recently it was wonderful to see that this criterion was part of the meeting. I know that a lot of units are working very hard to be “Mission Today” units, and if you need help from any conference or district officer please contact us.

#### BE EXCITED ABOUT NEW POSSIBILITIES IN LEADERSHIP

##### **Harriett Jane Olson Nominated to Lead Women’s Division**

When directors of the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries meet in August, they will consider the nomination of Harriett Jane Olson, executive of the United Methodist Publishing House, to become the division's chief executive. If elected, Ms. Olson will join the division in the fall, succeeding Jan Love, who left the position at the end of 2006 to become dean of Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. Lois M. Dauway is serving as interim chief executive.

#### BECOME INFORMED ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES

Immigration is a topic of interest for United Methodist Women. Let us continue to inform and educate ourselves on the legislation in Tennessee and in the Congress.

United Methodist Women have a Green Team, which champions environmental justice. The Tennessee Conference will be looking at some of the issues that the Green Team has been involved with in 2007. The following are some of the issues that the Green Team has lifted up for us:

- UMW Green Team's Letter-Writing Campaign for Processed Chlorine-Free (PCF) Paper
- Earth Day and the Environment
- Earth Day and the Roadside Trash - What Can We Recycle?

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Mercury-Containing Drugs, Vaccines Addressed at Event

Excerpted from an article by Barbara Wheeler,  
Women's Division executive secretary for communications

In 2006, the Women's Division board of directors approved a resolution that advocates:

- ◆ Prioritizing mercury-free stocks of vaccines and other pharmaceutical products for pregnant women, newborns and children,
- ◆ Providing informed consent for individuals about mercury exposure through their vaccines and drugs, and
- ◆ Banning any mercury compound in pharmaceutical products or vaccines prescribed or over-the-counter unless the presence of mercury compound has been proven clinically to have no adverse effects.

Directors called on the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to take action to protect children from mercury-containing drugs.

Members and leaders of United Methodist Women gathered with scientists, physicians and parents to

discuss the effects of mercury-containing vaccines and drugs at "The Truth Is Coming to Light" event sponsored by Women's Division June 6-7, 2007 at Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Norcross, Georgia.

Fifty-five participants heard from presenters who advocate for the removal of mercury compounds, including the mercury-preservative Thimerosal, from vaccines and drugs.

Parents of children who are mercury-poisoned often receive diagnoses of autism or other neurological disorders for their children's symptoms. The effects of these disorders on the lives of children and their families can be overwhelming. The disorder isolates the affected children, and their parents become consumed with taking care of their children and working to find treatment, medical care and educational opportunities for their children.

The event was a bridge between the faith community and grassroots advocates on this issue.

### A Note from Joyce

*(Continued from page 1)*

#### WE CAN PRAY

United Methodist Women know that prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do for God's mission. Remember the Sadie Tillman Scholarship Fund, Red Bird Missions, Bethlehem Centers of Nashville and Miriam's Promise with your prayers and donations. Our foremothers started with two pennies and a prayer to make mission happen around the world. What can we do? Can we do any less?

#### Prayer of the Day

*So far today, God,  
I've done all right.  
I haven't gossiped,  
I haven't lost my temper.  
I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish.  
I'm really glad of that,  
but in a few minutes, God,  
I'm going to get out of bed;  
And from then on,  
I'm probably going to need a lot of help!*

## Sharing the Joy

*Devona Dunn, Spiritual Growth Coordinator*

“I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart, Down in My Heart”. We have known those words to that song for years and years and years and years. Well, you get the picture, a long time. We have known them from Sunday school, Bible school, youth choir, and so on. Those lyrics are a reminder for us to share our joy.

If we have the joy do we let someone else know we have the joy? Can we hide the joy even if we wanted to? Think of some of the most joyful times you have had? Starting school, stopping school, getting engaged, getting married, birth of children, children starting school, children graduating from school, your children getting married, becoming a grandparent, retiring, or starting a new job. We have situations that bring joy, but joy is inside of us no matter the situation, and when we share that joy, it is noticed, and God gets the glory.

Joy is such a tiny word—only three letters—to cause so much wonderfulness. When we have that feeling of well-being, contentment, satisfaction, or delight, it is as if it we have a well inside that keeps on giving.

The annual Spiritual Enrichment Retreat for the United Methodist Women of the Tennessee Conference is scheduled for September 7-9 at Beersheba Springs (we fondly call it *The Mountain*). I am VERY new at planning this retreat—so I ask for your patience.

I hope you come that weekend and share the joy of being a Christian woman and return home with an even more joyful heart. The theme is “Rise, Shine, Glorify God”.

One of my joyful memories is attending church camp at Beersheba, and we sang “Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory, Glory”. That is one of the fun songs we have planned for our weekend.

Our speaker, Marilyn Massengale, is inspiring, dynamic, funny, sincere, energetic, and you will want to take her home with you. God led me to her, and God led her to say yes to conducting our sessions at the retreat.

The new building is scheduled to be ready for us to use, and we will have a special presentation during this time. We may have to stagger lunch times by a few minutes to accommodate everyone. A surprise for entertainment is planned, and after you think you are thoroughly entertained, you will still have another “entertaining surprise” (probably when and from whom you least expect).

There are times planned to recognize groups such as first timers, those on scholarships, family members, and districts.

**Registration forms are in this issue of *THE CALL*. Pray for our retreat.**



### **TN Conference UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat**

**September 7-9, 2007**

**Beersheba Springs  
Assembly Grounds**

## Membership in United Methodist Women

*With all this talk about getting new members, keeping the members we have and nurturing one another, just what does it take to be a “member” of UMW?*

A member of United Methodist Women is anyone who commits herself to the PURPOSE and chooses to belong. United Methodist Women celebrates an inclusive membership and welcomes all women who want to become members.

Being a member of The United Methodist Church is not required nor is there any minimum age requirement. Out of a commitment for mission locally and globally with women, children and youth, United Methodist Women **choose** to participate in meetings, prayer, financial giving, study, action and service.

United Methodist Women is a community of women who nurture and encourage one another in their spiritual growth, personal leadership and transformation. As a member, you accept the challenge to expand concepts of mission.

### “Reach for the Stars” by Sharing ☆

*A. Rachel Pace, MNO Coordinator*



Take a moment to read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. This states we glorify God by our generosity of sharing. How do you share your life, love, talents and gifts?

Our witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ is embodied in how we live our lives. The decisions one makes does affect our self and others.



Our guide to living includes our work in mission with women, children and youth as we serve God in our daily life. ☆

New members joining a unit is witness to God’s gift of caring, sharing and love.

How we show our love and care for others will help us to Reach for the STARS!

May we continue to carry the light through service to God.

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## Why I Am a United Methodist Woman—Survey of Members

Please check all the following that apply, and complete “In My Own Words.” Clip and return to the Editor, 408 Lookout Dr., Columbia, TN 38401, by August 10. Some of the received responses will be included in the next issue of *The Call*. Include your name (optional) if you do not mind being mentioned in the newsletter.

- To grow in discipleship and learn about my spiritual self
- Education through challenging mission studies and/or Reading Program
- Letting God use me; opportunities to serve
- To become more informed on social issues
- Develop friendships
- Keeps me from centering on myself
- Can accomplish more with others than I can do on my own

- Fellowship opportunities with other Christian women
- Something to do; it gets me out of the house
- To help develop or use leadership skills
- Nurturing support system
- Learn avenues to reach out to others
- Participate in mission activities
- It's expected of me
- Other (explain)\_\_\_\_\_

**In My Own Words,** United Methodist Women is important to me because: (use additional paper if necessary)

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# United Methodist Women are Mission in Action

## Have you been collecting for the Mission Education Event hands-on mission activities?

Bring the following items  
for

### UMCOR and Red Bird Mission

NEW Baby Gowns and Sleepers  
(suitable for layettes)

NEW Pajamas and Gowns age 4-8


A collection box will be provided  
for you to bring

**PULL-TABS from aluminum cans**  
for

**Ronald McDonald House.**

Why pull-tabs? "Although a simple pull-tab may appear to be insignificant," says Rachel Pace, "it is the most valuable part of the can. Unlike the rest of the can, the tab is pure aluminum and generates the most money when recycled."

**PURPOSE**  
OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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.



If your unit collects supplies for UMCOR as your project from the Material Resources for Mission Catalog, please take them to one of the following four Tennessee United Methodist Church depot locations.

- Tennessee Conference UMC Conference Center  
304 S. Perimeter Park Drive, Nashville, TN 37211  
Contact: Jason Brock, Director Love and Justice/  
Disaster Response  
Jbrock@tnumc.org  
(615) 329-1127
- Riverside United Methodist Church  
313 Sixth Ave, Columbia, TN 38401  
Contact: Gary Wedgewood  
gary.wedgewood@comcast.net  
(931) 388-6082
- Friendship United Methodist Church  
5454 S. Jefferson St, Cookeville, TN 38502  
Contact: Gerald Taylor  
friendshipumc@frontiernet.net  
(931) 525-3555
- Cedar Crest Camp  
8384 Barren Fork Bridge Rd, Lyles, TN 37098  
Contact: James Ralston  
umcamp@bellsouth.net  
(931) 670-3025

Pack kits in sturdy, medium-sized boxes with lids and write contents on the outside. Consider a small gift to the TN Conference Disaster Response to ship your kits (10 cents per regular kit, \$1.50 per flood bucket) to cover approximate \$500 cost of each truckload. UMCOR also requests \$1 per kit for their shipping in U.S. and overseas. Please make checks out to the TNUMC Disaster Response.

You can find the following KIT DESCRIPTIONS and assembly instructions at [umcor.org](http://umcor.org).

HEALTH KITS  
SCHOOL KITS  
LAYETTE KITS  
SEWING KITS  
FLOOD BUCKETS  
MEDICINE BOXES  
BEDDING PACKS

You may also give bulk supplies that volunteers will assemble at UMCOR Sager Brown.

## How to Plan Environmentally Responsible Events

<http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/environmental/>

Many United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women gatherings are part of a regular cycle of church activities. They are woven into the fabric of church and organizational life. Sometimes United Methodist Women are lovingly teased about the number of meetings they attend and sponsor. Often, planning for these activities has become very routinized. Does anyone stop to consider how the logistical arrangements can be an important part of living out our mission?

Have you ever considered how planning a meeting or other event provides you and/or your mission team with an excellent opportunity to put your faith and values into action? Probably not. Few do. Meetings seem so mundane. Yet, whether we are preparing for something as relatively simple as a local church supper or something more complex such as a jurisdictional quadrennial meeting, we can use the occasion to recognize the sacredness of Creation and address environmental problems in a very practical way.

Regardless of the size of the activity or its frequency (one-time, occasional or regularly scheduled), United Methodist Women have a Biblical, moral, and Church

mandate to begin modeling greater environmental responsibility in planning events.

We can plan our gatherings to model wise stewardship of natural resources and minimize the negative environmental consequences of our actions. Beyond this, we also may be able to find ways to strengthen our relationship with God by using our gathering to address environmental injustices or by enabling a positive encounter with the created world.

If you are helping to plan a routine activity, making changes in long-standing procedures may be tough and complicated. Regardless of whether this is a first-time or familiar event, your decision to raise environmental questions may not win you or your planning team a popularity contest. It may involve balancing or deciding among conflicting values and priorities. Keep in mind that the goal is to take a step forward in a process of becoming more environmentally responsible. This will be a process of many phases and some missteps. What is important is that we try and that we learn from our mistakes.

This article and additional information is available at the UMW web site.

## What's Available in the ON-LINE Community?

<http://www.umwonline.org/>

The UMW On-Line Community was created to give persons with common interests a way to communicate with each other through sharing articles, and other writings, asking questions about what other United Methodist Women are doing; or joining in chat room discussions. Discussions can be e-mailed to your inbox. Join now so you can check out these community discussions:

- ◆ The Welcome Center—getting started
- ◆ Membership Development—ideas for UMW Sunday, Installation services, teens, college women
- ◆ Faith Explorations—prayers and meditations, arts ministries
- ◆ Supporting Mission—opportunities to partner in mission, share interpretation ideas, stories about missions
- ◆ Environment—resources, discussion/action suggestions, current environmental issues, community responsibility
- ◆ Immigration—explore current immigration realities and faith responses
- ◆ Education—information, discussion, idea sharing and advocacy work on Public Education in the United States
- ◆ Living the Charter for Racial Justice—explore resources and how to live out the Charter
- ◆ Reading Program—good books to read, articles, history of Reading Program, list of 2006 books reduced in price

## **ATTENTION ! Information about Books and Program Materials**

Books have been ordered for the Conference Mission Education Event at Scarritt-Bennett Center. We will have reading books and study books for this year's mission studies. If there are any books from the 2007 list that you have been wanting, this will be your chance to fill that order. Make your list and send it with your money by someone you know is coming to the event. We will not be able to accept bank or credit cards, so bring cash or personal checks. If you pick up books and resources when you attend conference events, you will not have to pay the shipping and handling costs that are charged when you order directly from Mission Resource Center.

Many of you like to pick up your Program books as soon as they are available, but I have been advised that the 2008 Program books will not be available until later. I am hopeful they will be ready in September for the Conference Retreat at Beersheba Springs, but we may not get them until the Conference Annual Meeting in October.

I am learning more and more about the new Mission Resource Center, and they are learning about us and what we need. Hopefully, it will not be long before everything will be running smoothly. Let me know if you are having any problems with ordering. The liaison for Women's Division has asked me to call her directly so she can troubleshoot any problems we are experiencing.

As your conference Secretary of Program Resources, I welcome your calls. My phone number is listed incorrectly in some of your directories, so note that I can be reached at (931) 359-5158. I have been experiencing computer problems and am not sure I will get your e-mails, so the preferred method of contact is by phone until that situation is resolved.

I appreciate your patience as we learn about the new resource provider and work through the changes that are evolving.

*Mary Ellen Knott, Secretary of Program Resources*

## **AT ISSUE: 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church**

A petition is proposed for the 2008 General Conference that, if passed, will place the United Methodist Women under the oversight of the **church administrative council**. That means the church would have a say on what our mission money is used for and our ministry focus to women, children and youth would be in jeopardy. Contact our General Conference delegates to voice your opposition to this petition.

### **CLERGY DELEGATION**

- (GENERAL) Lynn Hill , Cathie Leimenstoll, Bettye Lewis, Barbara Garcia, John Collett,
- (JURISDICTIONAL) Harriet Bryan, Karen Barrineau, Michael Williams, Max Mayo, Ken Murray
- (Alternates) Lisa Gwock, Tommy Ward, Loyd Mabry, Elijah McGee, Bob Lewis

### **LAY DELEGATION**

- (General) Don Ladd, Joe Williams, Betty Alexander, Beth Morris, Opal Ransom
- (Jurisdictional) Holly Neal, Rachel Hagewood, Pat Sailors, Andrew Miller, Debbie Robinson
- (Alternates) Heather Bennett, Robert Sullins, Gloria Watts, Jim Austin, Vivian Martin

## “Called by Name”

2008 SEJ Quadrennial Meeting Theme Reminds Us Who and Whose We Are

**TENNESSEE CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** have more than one reason to attend the 2008 Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting April 4-6, 2008 at the Hampton Conference Center in Hampton, Virginia.

Reason 1: Inspirational and meaningful worship, music, and Bible Study.

Reason 2: Fellowship. We are a connectional church. This is a wonderful opportunity to “connect” with women from all 15 conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Reason 3: Focus Group. Select from these topics:  
 ♦ Finding time for private prayer—reviving mind, spirit and body; ♦ reacting to criticism; ♦ caring for God’s creation; ♦ becoming a partner in mission; ♦ stepping out on faith and answering the call; ♦ discrimination or justice for all; ♦ UMW 101 in English, Spanish, or Korean; ♦ UMW Rocks (for teens and young women); ♦ Women’s Division 101; ♦ nuts and bolts of the reading program; ♦ how to do a mission study; ♦ where does your money go and why.

Reason 4: Core Planning Group Officers. **Kathy Booker**, SEJ Core Planning Group member from Tennessee Conference, is the nominee for **PRESIDENT** of the Core Planning Group (2008-2012). We can show our support for Kathy by our presence.

Reason 5: Women’s Division Directors. Meet the Nominees for Women’s Division Directors from the SEJ and observe the election of directors by voting delegates.

Reason 6: Program Resources - Online Resources. Browse for new or familiar resources in the resource room and computer center.

Reason 7: Display Area. Check out tables and booths set up with informational material for great mission and program ideas.

Reason 8: Missionaries. Chat with a missionary to find out what they have been doing in the mission field.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, April 4, and conclude at noon, Sunday, April 6. Registration cost is \$100.00.

United Methodist Women events should always have a scripture-based theme. Biblical references for the Jurisdiction meeting are Isaiah 43: 1-7 (1-3a and 5-7); John 10: 3-4, Galatians 5: 13-14; and Colossians 3: 17.

**Registration packets** will be available at the Mission Education Event and Conference Annual Meeting.

### Who Attends a Quadrennial Meeting?

**All United Methodist Women  
from Conferences in the  
Southeastern Jurisdiction are  
WELCOME and encouraged to attend:**

**The Southeast Jurisdiction includes  
the following conferences:**

North Alabama  
Alabama-West Florida  
Florida  
Holston  
Tennessee  
Memphis  
Mississippi  
North Georgia  
South Georgia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Kentucky  
Red Bird Missionary  
Virginia  
Western North Carolina

## Across the Districts

### **Pulaski District Ponderings** *Beverly Duke, Pulaski District President*

From the delta of the Tennessee River at Savannah to the vista of the foothills of Lincoln County, thirty units of Pulaski District United Methodist Women strive to fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women. To prepare us for this task, local unit officer training was held at new Prospect UMC on February 3. The Spring Meeting of Day Apart at Waynesboro First UMC on March 17 promoted developing our relationships with God, our fellowship and relationships with one another, and outreach in the name and love of Jesus Christ.

The District UMCOR focus for 2007 is school kits. Several kits have been completed and forwarded to the Conference office and will go to Sager Brown in Louisiana. The theme for this year is "Here I Am, Lord." **Here we are Lord! Send us!**

Our 2007 Vice President, Karen Sadler, has resigned her position. She and her husband, Bob, have accepted positions in mission to the area of the Mississippi Gulf Coast that was hit so hard by Hurricane Katrina. Leah Wilkerson, college freshman and UMW member from Robertson Chapel UMC was elected at the Spring Meeting to assume the office and duties of District Vice President. We miss Karen but we are excited to have Leah in this position.

Plans for the Tennessee Conference Mission Education Event July 18-21, the Pulaski District Mission Education Event August 18, the Conference Retreat September 7-9, and the Pulaski District Fall Meeting October 20, have been formulated. The Executive Committee has begun the Membership campaign of "Reaching for the Stars."

The Pulaski District UMW continues to live out the UMW Purpose, to reach the goals set for the year and to "reach for the stars."

### **Changes in Cumberland District**

*Barbara D. Lampley, Cumberland District President.*

Making changes can be good! Personally I have never liked change, but there have been times when I learned that the way I have been used to doing things was not getting the job done. At the end of the year 2006 our District Team made some changes and they have had a positive effect. Starting at the beginning of 2006, we changed our newsletter format, and the comments we received were good. All local units were encouraged to send us articles and pictures to let us know what they are doing so other units might use their ideas.

Well, we decided if one thing worked we could try something else. Our attendance at District meetings was beginning to slump, so in January we changed the agenda for our District Officer Training. We dedicated the entire time for training and started later in the morning. Our attendance was more than it had been in the past, and we had local units represented that had not previously attended. With these changes, we moved our Day Apart to coincide with our District annual meeting. Our District Mission Study was held in April and there were over 50 ladies present for a great study. The Conference Mission Education Event is coming up in a few weeks and we will have some first timers attending.

Contact is the key. I believe it is important to keep in touch with the officer team you represent and have more personal contact with local units in your District. In the past I have been so hesitant to make calls, but this year I have called each of the Local Units that I am assigned. My calendar started filling up as I made the calls. It is not a difficult thing to do. My suggestion would be to do offer to do a program. The same program can be done at each unit visited.

An officer from one of our local units is researching now to see how old her unit is. A member of the unit is 94 years young and quite a historian. There is a written church history and hopefully the information that is needed will be in the writings.

Personally, I want to encourage you to enjoy what you are doing. Remember you are a Woman in Mission and the harvest is Great. We need to work to increase our membership to be able to reap the harvest.

#### **Looking Ahead at District Events**

##### **Clarksville District**

Jul 28 Executive Team Meeting, Antioch, 9 am - noon  
 Aug 19 District Intergenerational Meeting, New Chapel (Springfield), 2 pm - 4 pm  
 Oct 27 District Annual Meeting, Salem, 9:00-12:00  
 Nov 3 Executive Team Meeting, Antioch, 9:00-12:00

##### **Columbia District**

Jul 28 President's Round Table, Farmington, 10 am;  
 Executive Team meeting, 1 pm  
 Sept 22 District Annual Mtg/Training, Lewisburg 1st

##### **Cookeville District**

Aug 25 Executive Team Meeting, 9:30 am  
 Oct 27 District Annual Meeting, Crossville First  
 Dec 8 Executive team Meeting

#### **Cumberland District**

Jul 28 Executive Team Meeting, Slater's Memorial (Goodlettsville)  
 Sept 22 District Annual meeting, Key-Stewart, Gallatin  
 Nov 3 Executive Team Meeting, Hendersonville 1st

##### **Murfreesboro District**

Oct 20 District Annual Meeting, TBA

##### **Nashville District**

Aug 18 Executive Team Meeting, Aldersgate UMC  
 Sept 29 District Annual Fall Meeting, Crieveewood  
 Nov 10 Executive Team Meeting, Scarritt-Bennett Center

##### **Pulaski District**

Aug 18 District Mission Education Event, Coleman Memorial, Lawrenceburg, 9:30 am  
 Oct 20 District Fall Meeting, TBA

## The Conference Calendar

- July 18-21\* **TN Conference UMW Mission Education Event**  
Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1008 19th Ave. So.  
Nashville
- August 4 Conference Finance Committee Meeting  
Connell Memorial UMC
- August 12 Conference Executive Committee Meeting  
Madison Street UMC
- September 7-9\* **TN Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat**  
Beersheba Springs Assembly Grounds
- October 6\* **TN Conference UMW Annual Meeting**  
Madison Street UMC, 319 Madison St.  
Clarksville
- November 16-18 Conference Elected Officer Leadership Training  
St. Louis, MO

\* *Registration Required—Conference-wide event*

***Making the Most  
for Mission  
through  
Membership***

*The Call* is mailed four times a year to the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer & Circle Leaders in each local unit. Make sure a list of these current officers has been sent to the editor. Please copy and distribute.



*Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women*

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Retreat Registration  
Enclosed!!**

**TN Conference UMW  
Spiritual Life Retreat  
September 7-9, 2007**