

July 2009

Issue 3



The Call

Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women

TIRED AND WEARY??

Joy Lewter, President

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|---|-----|
| President's Message | 1-2 |
| Editor's Report | 2 |
| Registration Form Spiritual Life Retreat | |
| Spiritual Life | 3 |
| Pulaski District Columbia District | 4 |
| Assembly 2010 | 5 |
| Registration for Assembly | 6 |
| Districts ' Calendars | 7 |
| Cookeville District | 7 |
| Conference Calendar | 8 |

Verses from Isaiah 40:28-29 have taken on special meaning for me, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the wear." June and the part of July have about worn me out. I have gone and gone, some time for United Methodist Women work, for church work, and for pleasure. My friends all say, "My second name is GO." And this is true but I realize I am beginning to get tired more quickly. I think my mind and my heart are young but my body is not cooperating. Can any of you relate?

The Tennessee UMW executive team traveled to Owensboro, KY to Kentucky Wesleyan for Regional School and several of us came back to Brentwood for Tennessee Annual Conference without going home. I took the Food and Faith study at Regional School and was excited to have the author of the book for my teacher. We studied hard, fellowshipped much, laughed a lot, and I tried to climb the three flights of stairs one time a day. This meant that my bag was pretty heavy by the end of the day.

Tennessee Annual Conference is always a highlight for me. I love the United Methodist Church and Conference is a time we worship and praise God as a denomination. This was the first year for me to address that group. I had bought a new top to wear for my speech on Tuesday. I was representing you and I wanted to look fine. Monday morning, Bishop Wills sent word that he would like for me to address the body before 1:00 that day. I wasn't wearing my new top. But you don't turn the Bishop down, and I proudly talked about our UMW mission work and about our passion for Bethlehem Center. When I sat down I took a deep breath, then almost laughed out loud. I realized God was teaching me a lesson, that presentation was not about me, it was about you and God, and it didn't matter what I had on.

I came home, washed clothes, and left with my 12 year old grandson for a bus trip to Washington DC. We had fun and saw a lot. It is always fun to see the world through the eyes of children. I didn't realize we were seeing so many memorials and monuments until Tommy asked one day. "Do we have to see more places where people are buried today?" Those six days were the longest Tommy had been away from his daddy. Even though we had had a large time, we were both ready to be home.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN MISSION EDUCATION EVENT

BERTA PERKINS, EDITOR

2009 Tennessee Conference School of Christian Mission has come and gone. It was different from the past because we mostly met at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski. There are always pluses and minuses when you change venues, but all and all, it was a great success. The beds were a challenge to some, the stairs and the lay of the land to others, but it was a wonderful time for learning about our world, renewing faith, seeing old and making new friends. Thank you, Martin College, for hosting us.

We owe a big **Thank You** to all the study leaders: Rev. Jim Clark, Rev. Daniel Hayes, Mrs. Carol Ashley, Bishop William Morris and Dr. Shirley Corry for Food and Faith. For Sudan, we had Rev. Roger A. Hopson and Rev. Tiwirai Kufarimai (TK). *Archbishop** Mary T. Newman led the study on Native American Survival. The youth were a challenge to Rev. Renee' Franklin, because of the number not her ability. What a great problem to have. Mrs. Esther Sims and Mrs. Linda Kilby led the children's study on Sudan. The music was led by Brenda Gardner and Margaret Fisher. I hold these people in my heart and my prayers. Of course, we couldn't have this event without our deans. This was the second year for Jerlene Bass to serve as Dean and Gwen Sales to serve as Assistant Dean. My hat is off to all of you.

From the figures I received, we had 148 participants in Pulaski and Nashville. There were about 25 new attendants.

*This is a new identity for Mary T. - just kidding.

TIRED AND WEARY?? - Continued

And yesterday I got home from our Christian Mission Event at Martin Methodist College. We had a good school, a good group of women, and I was so proud for Martin Methodist to host this event. I love MMC because it is where I went to college for my first two years and where I work part-time now. But I did come home tired. I hit the sofa for a nap, only to be awakened an hour later with Tommy's new puppy, Sammy, licking my face. While I played with the dog, my son, Wayne, cooked supper. The food was good, but then I did what Moms do, I washed the dishes and cleaned up the kitchen. Some things never change, even if they are 33 and have children of their own.

Life goes on. We get tired but we get rested and move on to the next adventure God has planned for us. The Bible verses I started this article with gave me new strength this past week. We get tired but God doesn't. We only have to call on him, and take a moment or two of Sabbath rest in his arms to regain our strength. Then we move on to the next challenge and the next opportunity to serve Him.

My prayer for you is to receive God's blessing and grace. Work in His name and rest in His strength along the way. I will miss seeing you all at the Spiritual Life Retreat. I plan to have my other knee replaced on September 1st and I will be recuperating that weekend. My prayers will be with you at that event. I know it will be a time of study and a time of Sabbath rest for each of you. I always find God on that mountain. But let us remember **God is good all the time. All the time God is good.** Blessings to you!!

**TENNESSEE CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT
Beersheba Springs Assemble Ground, September 11-13, 2009**

Registration Deadline is August 15, 2009

If needed, registration is first come, first serve.
The retreat is usually full by August 1st.

REGISTRATION FORM (print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

*E-Mail _____

Church _____

District _____

Phone # _____

Is this your first time at this retreat? Y / N

Do you have trouble with stairs? Y / N

Roommate request:

(Please send forms and checks together)

There will be a class for children (ages 5-11)
and a class for youth (age 12-17).

**If you are registering a child or youth,
complete a separate form for them.**

Age of child: _____

Name and relationship of accompanying adult:

In case of emergency Contact (Name/ Phone

***CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT via
E-MAIL when possible. Please include
an e-mail address, and reply when you
have received your e-mail confirmation.**

**Cancellations must be made by
September 1st.**

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE

Cost of registration, 6 meals and lodging.

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• **NEW LODGING:**

• ADULTS \$155.50

• CHILD \$ 70.00

• YOUTH \$100.00

• All of these rooms will sleep 3 or 4 people. Linens are included
and each room has a private bath. Please give your first and
second choice.

• **Turner Lodge** _____

• **East Side** _____

• **Upper Neal** _____

•

•

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•

• **ORIGINAL SETTING:**

• ADULTS \$107.00

• CHILD \$ 60.00

• YOUTH \$ 80.00

• Linens are **NOT** included. People staying in these
rooms will use the bathhouses. If possible, one person
per bed will be booked depending on the number of
requests for these rooms. Please give first and second
choices.

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• **Marvel Row** _____

• **Brick Row** _____

• **Log Row** _____

• **Lower Neal** _____

• **2nd Floor Hotel** _____

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If staying only one night; \$85

Which night? _____

*Priority will be given to those staying the whole
weekend.*

Amount of money enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

TN Conference UMW

Mail form and check to: Judy Vecchione,

503 Brick Church Pike

Conference Use Only: Date Received _____ Amount Received _____

Check No. _____

Roommate (s) _____

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Marina Rawls, Coordinator

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9

I am currently putting the final touches on our Spiritual Life Retreat at Beersheba Springs, September 11-13, 2009. (Where has the time gone?) Dr. Kay Gray, our leader for this event, is serving in her 39th year as a United Methodist Ordained Elder. Kay has been pastor in Middle Tennessee (all churches are in Nashville except for one) at Scottsboro, Monroe Street, Cook's in Mount Juliet, Hamilton, Bellevue and now at Donelson Heights. She was also in the Conference Council Office which may have brought her to your church as a guest preacher. In addition to the usual educational requirements for an ordained Elder, Kay has her Doctor of Ministry with a specialty in spiritual direction. In terms of the theme of the Spiritual Life Retreat, Kay's family table has changed from the days of two sons being raised by a single mom to an empty nest and daily meals shared with her husband, Buddy DeFord, a Nashvillian. From Kay's two sons, five boisterous grandchildren frequent their family table. Her interests include sports, playing bridge, and especially fitting for this retreat; reading, reading, reading.

Dr. Gray is looking forward to leading us down "the path to *jouissance*", To quote from the book, "*Jouissance* is much more profound than just good feeling or even mindful eating, though it incorporates those. *Jouissance* is a matter of deep joy, of assured security, of living in the presence of God, as though the kingdom has come indeed. So this is not just a matter of enjoying our food, but a claim that we can be transformed."

The study book for our retreat will be Sharing Food, Christian Practices for Enjoyment by L. Shannon Jung. From a book review posted on the internet it stated, "Our everyday personal, familial, and communal practices of eating," says Jung, "have the potential for making us more attentive to our life purposes, more attuned to our communal identities, and even more mindful of the presence of God." This book is available through the Resource Center or you may contact Mary Ellen Knott, our Program Resource Coordinator, at 425 Forrest Street, Lewisburg, TN 37091 or give her a call at 931) 359-5158 to order the book.

Harriett Jane Olsen, Women's Division Deputy General Secretary, stated in the Responsively Yours column of the March 2009 *Response* magazine;

"Food security is still a dream for too many people, ...Remember: Jesus is the one who challenged the disciples saying, "You give them something to eat" Well, disciples, how shall we feed them?"

We as United Methodist Women through our infinite knowledge and enormous amount of skills, have amongst us today the extraordinary gifts which are seriously needed to aid those who are the least of these - to work as Jesus would have us to bring more disciples into this world and to carry out God's work. I challenge you to put into practice all that we are learning at our School of Mission and will be learning at the Spiritual Life Retreat to go forth and become those disciples ready to feed the world.

NEWS FROM THE PULASKI DISTRICT

Beverly Duke, Pulaski District President

The Pulaski District United Methodist Women kicked off 2009 with a great Spring Meeting and Officer Training. Over 90 women from the five counties of the district gathered at New Prospect UMC on Saturday, March 21st. The theme for the year and for the day was, "United Methodist Women Protect God's Green Earth." Worship, singing, liturgical dance, a plant and seed exchange, environmental information, God's word on stewardship of this Earth, and ways to "Go Green" in our own places were included in the program. The attendance and enthusiasm were excellent. Since our district is so spread out and since gas is so expensive, it was decided to hold our annual Officer Training on the same day. This seems to be most beneficial to all our local unit officers and to our district officers as well.

Three of our Pulaski District members were part of the Sager Brown UMCOR mission team sponsored by our Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women. From Loretto UMC attending were Delia Grooms and Eudora Myrick and from Lawrenceburg

First UMC was Beverly Duke. This was a wonderful experience for all three and it is hoped that soon other mission teams can be organized and return to work at our fantastic Depot that serves people all over the world. While our team was there, a container the size of an 18-wheeler was loaded with health kits, sewing kits, bedding kits, and school kits and was shipped to Armenia. How wonderful it is to have the opportunity to be part of God's mission to all parts of the world.

One June 18th, the Pulaski District Executive Committee met with the Savannah First United Methodist Church UMW. They had a wonderful program and our Executive Committee members were graciously welcomed.

The district is excited about the opportunity to host the Tennessee Conference Mission Education Event at Martin Methodist College. And our District Mission Education Event is scheduled for August 15th at Coleman Memorial UMC in Lawrenceburg.

GREETINGS FROM THE COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Dixie Waters, President

First, let me say how proud I am of all our District Executive Team. We had 100% attendance at the Conference District Officer Training on January 23rd. We appreciate the efforts of the Conference team and how well each of them communicated their duties and responsibilities for each office. We learned a lot and will, hopefully, respond to our 30 local units in a more effective way.

Our two (one for each side of the district) Faith Lifts in February were inspirational plus our faith WAS lifted by the two speakers, Rev. Vona Wilson, Franklin First UMC and Rev. Drew Brewer, Hohenwald First UMC. Jo Booth, Columbia District Spiritual Growth Coordinator and our hostesses, Oak Grove UMW and Lewisburg UMW, did an impressive job.

Our bi-annual Campaign for Children in April surprised our speaker, Meredith Kendall for Against the Grain, Franklin, TN. By that I mean: when this district collects goodies/supplies for any organization, there is an overwhelming response. Our officers have become experts in packing a mini van with supplies and they came through for Against the Grain! We admired Meredith's generosity and compassion for her "Reach and Teach" year round tutoring program particularly for teen and single mothers. Thank you Katie Harris, Social Action Coordinator and Berlin UMW!

Five from Columbia District joined the conference UMW bus to Sager Brown UMCOR Depot, Baldwin, LA in late May. This is an eye-opening and gratifying experience especially since many of us are so familiar with those school, health, layette, sewing, bedding and cleaning kits that many of our units have assembled. Interesting experience just being "down in the bayous" amongst the alligators! Just kidding! No alligators were spotted EXCEPT on the guided airboat tours available in the area near Baldwin LA.

I like this quote: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." *Elizabeth Andrew*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LAUNCHES ASSEMBLY 2010

CONFERENCE ENGAGES THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN IN FELLOWSHIP FOR MISSION UNDER THEME OF “FAITH - HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION”

On April 30-May 2, in St. Louis, Mo., a broad and diverse gathering of women will convene Assembly 2010 - a three-day conference hosted by United Methodist Women celebrating and empowering women of faith in mission for women, children, and youth. Assembly 2010 will build a constituency capable of generating bold action across the globe.

Inspired by faith and activated by justice. Assembly 2010 is a movement of women from all walks of life. Women will come together as one body to worship, fellowship with each other, and also to address and act upon issues affecting women, children and youth. The Assembly theme of “Faith - Hope - Love in Action” solidifies this gathering into a movement for all women of faith.

The event represents one of the largest and most diverse groups of women of faith from the largest denominational faith organization for women, United Methodist Women.

A historic quadrennial event that attracts thousands, United Methodist Women’s Assembly has taken place since 1942, and has always been a gathering place to rejoice and mobilize women in mission for women, children and youth.

The theme of “**Faith - Hope - Love in Action**” includes a vision statement and scripture passage (Colossians 1:3-6) guiding the collective vision for Assembly 2010. The vision statement reads:

As United Methodist Women who are disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to share....

Faith: Our belief in the purpose of a new heaven and a new earth.

Hope: Our expectation of needs met for all.

Love: Our sisterhood of grace and our embodiment of justice.

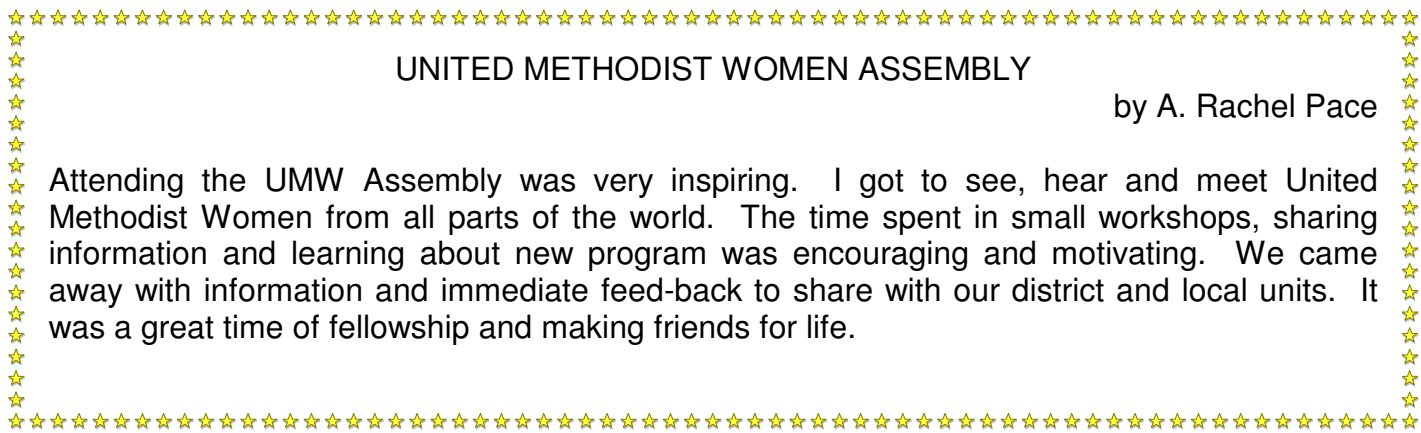
In Action: We find fulfillment of Faith, Hope, Love in the name of Jesus Christ.

Put the dates on your 2010 calendar. This is such a great opportunity to attend Assembly. St. Louis is the closest it has been in several years. God is at work in the world and the UMW members are a part of that mission work.

The conference is looking into getting a bus to get us there. Think about the fun that would be. Stay tuned for more information.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ASSEMBLY

by A. Rachel Pace



Attending the UMW Assembly was very inspiring. I got to see, hear and meet United Methodist Women from all parts of the world. The time spent in small workshops, sharing information and learning about new program was encouraging and motivating. We came away with information and immediate feed-back to share with our district and local units. It was a great time of fellowship and making friends for life.

REGISTER NOW FOR 2010 ASSEMBLY IN ST. LOUIS

Register Online!

- Check out the Assembly Website to get the latest information.
- Go to www.umwmission.org and click on Assembly 2010
- Early online registration 6/1/09 - 11/30/09: Discounted registration fee of \$215
- Early online price available with ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY because of the associated added cost of paper mail-in forms.
- Regular Registration on paper is \$250 per person.
- Registration fees include: Register online
 - Plenary sessions and worship
 - Full access to the Experience Hall
 - Workshops, panel discussions, and performances
 - Limited edition tote bag with Assembly Materials
 - Assembly 2010 Program Book
 - Assembly 2010 commemorative pin

Pre-Conference Ubuntu Day of Service: April 29

- Participants choose from several mission service options
- Ubuntu is a Zulu word that means “I am human because you are human”
- Transportation, lunch and T-shirt provided
- Connect with the community of St. Louis
- Register online: \$50 per person

Mission Forward Symposium: April 29

- Pre-Conference series of panel discussions on mission, history, vocation and the future of mission
- Keynote address by Dana Robert, Author of 2010 Mission Study
- Lunch and packet of “Mission Forward” resources provided
- Register online, 150 spaces available: \$50 per person

YOU WILL WANT TO BE THERE

by Lois Azar

Assembly 2010! I am excited about the theme of Faith! Hope! Love in Action! I attended the last United Methodist Assembly four years ago in Anaheim, California, and I have some wonderful memories of traveling with my UMW friends. Assembly is one of those special times to really feel the connection of women from across the country as well as globally. Assembly included worship and music, fellowship and meeting many, many wonderful women from all walks of life, learning about our mission dollars and being inspired. It is truly an amazing opportunity to understand how United Methodist Women can live out their faith, express their hope, and put their love into action. It is about being Christian women with a heart for mission. I hope you will bring someone and come to St. Louis, April 30-May 2., 2010.

District Events in 2009

Clarksville District

President: Kay Martin

August 17 District Intergenerational Event, Antioch UMC, Sun. 2-4 pm
 October 24 District Annual Meeting, Bethlehem UMC, Sat., 9 am - noon

Columbia District

President: Dixie Waters

July 25 Presidents' Roundtable at Godwin Chappell UMC. Covered dish luncheon about noon
 July 25 Columbia District Executive Team Meeting at 1:00 pm. We will plan the annual meeting.
 September 26 District Annual Meeting and Leadership Training, Franklin First

Cookeville District

President: Donna Dilts

October 17 District Annual and Executive Team Meeting, Location TBA Sat.

Cumberland District

President: Claudia Sullivan

October 24 District Annual Meeting, Gladeville UMC

Murfreesboro District

President: Margaret Hicks

November 7 District Annual Meeting, Murfreesboro First UMC

Nashville District

President: Eileen Vaughan

September 26 District Fall Meeting - Location to be arranged.

Pulaski District

President: Beverly Duke

August 15 District Mission Education Event - Coleman Memorial UMC 9:00 a m
 October 17 District Fall Meeting -Prospect UMC - 9:00 a m

NEWS FROM THE COOKEVILLE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Donna Dilts, President

The Cookeville District is cooking and getting good results from our recipe of faith, friendship, fellowship and hard work.

Our first recipe this year was a Native American Survival Mission Study hosted by Cookeville First UMW. We learned about Native Americans and their struggles. We also learned about the Native Americans that are living in the Cumberland Plateau Area. All who attended received enough information to fill our brains and a wonderful lunch to fill our tummies.

Our next recipe was our Day Apart hosted by the Burton and Wrights Chapels in Algood. Holly Neal set a beautiful table and reminded us during the, "Who's at the Table," program that Christ should always be the head of every table.

Paula Lafever and I represented Cookeville District on the UMCOR Sager Brown Mission Trip. It was well worth the long bus ride. We learned so much and got a great dose of mission, compassion and hope.

There are more recipes to come. We are gathering ingredients to do our part to help Bethlehem Center. I just pray that we all do the right thing to save that long going mission in our conference.

We have just about all the ingredients together for our Annual Meeting to be held on October 17th at McMinnville First UMC. Our speaker will be from Miriam's Promise. All are invited to taste the morsels of this recipe.

I wish to thank all of you who have given me prayers and support during my first year as president of the Cookeville District. We must support each other to carry on the work to further God's kingdom.

The Conference Calendar - 2009

September 11-13* Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

October 10* Annual Meeting - Shelbyville
First

Nov. 20-22 Conference Elected Officer
Leadership Training
St. Louis, Mo

*Registration Required-Conference-wide event



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

Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Register Now!!
TN Conference UMW
Spiritual Life Retreat
Beersheba Springs, TN

