

May 2009

Issue 2



The Call

Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women

MISSION ON MY MIND

Joy Lewter, President

Inside this Issue:

President's Message	1
From the Editor	2
Message Continued	2
Spiritual Growth	3
Program Resource	3
Christian Mission Event	4
Registration Form	5
Schedule	6
District Events	7
Clarksville District	7
Leaders Mission Event	8
Treasurer	8
Conference Calendar	9

One of the responsibilities and joys that comes with being the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women president is serving on the board for Bethlehem Center. I had looked forward to working with Joyce Searcy and meeting new people on the board. And so, I went to my first meeting wondering how I might help; give a donation, take some things for the Shopping Bag. I had visited Bethlehem Center several times and I was anxious to learn more about the programs and decide where I would fit in.

I was not able to attend the first meeting but made the second. The meetings are held in a small room at Bethlehem Center and the board is made up of business people, Methodist church people, volunteers and clients of Bethlehem Center. The meeting had not been going on long before I realized this was going to be a different meeting. The atmosphere was sad like a death was about to take place.

Before the meeting, I had received a Non-Profit Management report that found "Bethlehem Centers of Nashville programs are in demand." But the report also said, "What little bit of fat there might have been in the BCN budget has already been cut and further cuts will be at program level." The report also said that staff was way too short. That told me that administration was not top heavy. Having been the budget director for a school system, I know there are times when hard decisions have to be made. It wasn't long before I realized the balance sheet was not good. We had a payroll coming up that could wipe out our account. We had some debt that needed to be paid. The financial committee was not talking about "we may need to close," but they had come to the meeting to develop a plan for closing in a timely manner and without hurting any more people than possible. Being fair to employees and clients continued to be most important, but we could not stay open.

I found myself thinking, "Stop, let's pray about this, there has to be something we can do." But I sat there, new on the board, thinking I needed to keep my mouth shut. I did not know the situation. I was sitting where I face the mantle in the room. On the wall above, I saw pictures of the two women who started Bethlehem Center. They seemed to be looking at me, telling me, "don't let this happen." I realized the concerns and needs that these two women faced are still present.

- Mothers need childcare. Today 112 families are served each day. A mother can go to work knowing that her children will be safe, fed and provided learning experiences.
- Teenagers need academic support and a place to "hang out". Today 214 youth receive that support and also values and leadership development.
- There are senior citizens that can't get out of their homes; they need someone to check on them everyday. One hot meal is taken to 220 people each day.

MISSION ON MY MIND - CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT THIS WEB SITE.
WWW.GBGM-UMC.ORG/TNCONFUMW**

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO GO GREEN

Berta Perkins, Editor

People of all ages are making positive lifestyle changes with the idea of reducing their environmental footprint, saving money and improving their health. We must learn to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

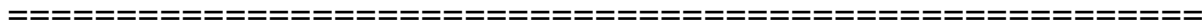
Recycling is one of the easiest things to do. We can recycle paper, aluminum, plastic and glass. If your community does not have a recycling center, you might talk to your nearest school about operating one. They will make money and educate the students about the importance of not filling our landfills. Your town or city might start picking up recyclables along with trash.

The next time a light bulb burns out, think of replacing it with an energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), which uses approximately 75 percent less energy and lasts up to 10 times longer than a standard incandescent bulb. You can't use the CFL in a fixture that has a dimmer switch on it. I found that out the hard way.

Unplug your stand by ready appliances when not in use. Televisions, toasters, coffee makers, microwaves, and cell phone chargers are using energy when turned off. If you can use a multiple plugs, it will be easier. Day by day, this might be too difficult, but when you leave home for several days, try it and also set your heat or air on a less comfortable temperature for your away time.

Use green cleaning supplies. Many cleaning supplies contain toxic chemicals that cause a variety of health problems such as eye irritation, rashes, coughing and headaches. They also do considerable damage to the environment. When purchasing cleaning supplies look for these terms on the labels: biodegradable in three to five days; plant-based; hypoallergenic; **contains** no phosphates, chlorine, petroleum products, or ammonia; and formulated without dye or synthetic fragrance. It might be better to make your own. You can clean almost anything in your house with the right combinations of baking soda, vinegar and warm water.

ANOTHER THOUGHT! Look on labels and; if possible, buy products made here. They may not be items you see on commercials, but they will be just as good and probably cheaper. So I challenge you to start reading labels when you shop for everyday things. The job you save may be yours or your neighbors. **We should have awakened to this a decade ago.** Let's get with the program. Help our fellow Americans keep their jobs and create more job here in the United States.



MISSION ON MY MIND - Continued

Somewhere along the way United Methodist Women began their support of this ministry. Bethlehem Center of Nashville is the **only** Women's Division National Institution in the Tennessee Conference. It is **ours** and we can not let it down. The needs for this center are still present, but because several grants have been lost due to our national economy situation, funds are greatly needed. **We have to step up.**

And **we will** because it is part of our heritage, it is what we do. Remember our beginning. Over 135 years ago those ladies in Boston saw a need and developed a plan to "fix-it". Lack of funds did not stop them. Lack of funds will not stop us now. Over 400 people are depending on us to make their lives better and we can not let them down.

At the executive meeting, May 9th, the conference officers voted to ask each unit, each circle, of the Tennessee Conference to take a love offering at each of their meetings for Bethlehem Center. These offerings will be sent monthly to the District Treasurers, who in turn will follow the process to get the money to Bethlehem Center through Women's Division. Bethlehem center should get the funds within 5 days after the treasurers receive the money.

As our foremothers did, it is time for us to put on our calico dresses (well at least non-designer), save our pennies, quarters, dollars, etc. and say a prayer everyday for the Bethlehem Center families. God is good and faithful and I know that he is going to provide us a plan and a way to help his children who are served at Bethlehem Centers of Nashville. Please be part of the solution to this situation. **We can make a difference.**

Correction from Issue 1 - Joy's e-mail address is: joylewter@united.net

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Marina Rawls, Coordinator

As we prepare for the School of Mission studies this year at Martin Methodist College, there are several things we need to do to get ready. There will be the obvious packing and traveling arrangements. We must present ourselves with an open mind and seek the wisdom our teachers will bring in each subject. We have three from which to choose: Food and Faith, Sudan, and Native American Survival. Having the study book, a bible and an earnest desire to learn, will also formulate the groundwork for this time of learning into a true knowledge of each subject.

“Jesus, the Christ, has promised to be our ever-present Teacher and Guide. His voice is not hard to hear. His direction is not hard to understand. If we are beginning to calcify what should always remain alive and growing, He will tell us. We can trust his teaching. If we are wandering off toward some wrong idea or unprofitable practice, He will guide us back. If we are willing to listen to the Heavenly Monitor, we will receive the instruction we need.

Our world is hungry for genuinely changed people, Leo Tolstoy observes, “Everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself.” Let us be among those who believe that the inner transformation of our lives is a goal worthy of our best effort. (*from Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster*)

Plans are underway for the Spiritual Life Retreat at Beersheba Springs, September 11-13, 2009 with Dr. Kay Gray as our leader. She is the pastor at Donelson Heights United Methodist Church in Nashville. We will be studying the companion book for the Food and Faith study, Sharing Food, Christian Practices for Enjoyment by L. Shaoun Jung. The book is \$15.00 and the print is larger than usual. It is from our 2009 reading program. This is available for you to purchase from our Resource Center and will also be available at School of Mission, July 8-11.

May God bless each of you that you may have safe travel this summer on vacations and to our Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women events.

NEWS FROM THE PROGRAM RESOURCE

Mary Ellen Knott, Coordinator

I have a few things to add to your video list.

Things pertaining to the Native American Study:

DVD - Stories from the Circle of Life

-running time 37 minutes-

It also includes an audio book.

DVD - Giving Our Hearts Away

It has 4 discs that go along with each chapter of our text.

I now have the CD that goes with the songbook, “Singing the Sacred”. There are 21 tracks with songs from many Native American Communities across the United States. The songbook has a lot of information about Native American Worship and background on the songs. A map of the Indian Country is available.

Correction from Issue 1 - Mary Ellen’s phone number is: 931.359.5158

CHRISTIAN MISSION EVENT
TENNESSEE CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Jerlean Bass Dean

As this year begins, the buzzword on everyone's lips is change. We, the United Methodist Women, have embraced change from the time of our inception. Change is what we stand for as United Methodist Women. This year we are making a change in the location of our Mission Study

We have enjoyed the campus of Scarritt Bennett for our Mission Study for many years. But due to economic and other factors, we are changing the location for our Christian Mission Study. This year it will be held at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. The college has different amenities that are available for use, one is the athletic center.

Registration entitles you to full participation in the Christian Mission Event, including meals and room. Our space is limited to participants only. Please complete the registration form, in this issue, and send it to the address at the bottom of the form. Attendees will receive confirmation of registration from the registrar. The preferred method of notification is e-mail, so please provide an e-mail address, if you have one, on the registration form. Registration will be on Thursday, July 9th, 2009, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Rooms are double occupancy and dorms have shared/community bathrooms. You will be provided two keys; one for entry into the building and another key for your room. We will be housed in dormitories that are close in proximity to the classrooms and dining room. Please indicate on your registration form if you have special housing needs. For instance, persons having difficulty with stairs should state if you can manage two or three steps to access a building. We are limiting the first floor rooms for persons with those needs, so please understand that if you need first floor housing, a roommate with the same needs may be placed with you. This could mean that you will not be housed near other persons from your district.

The cafeteria is set up with different menu choices (hot food, cold food, deli style, salads, soup, etc.). Please list special dietary needs on the registration form. The cafeteria will be serving three meals on Thursday and Friday and breakfast on Saturday. There will be dinner Wednesday night for early arrivals.

You will need to provide your own linens, pillows, towels, wash clothes, pillowcases, sheets and blanket. The beds are twin size.

This year Christian Mission Event offers outstanding topics from which to choose.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:	FOOD AND FAITH
GEOGRAPHIC:	SUDAN
GENERAL ISSUE:	GIVING OUR HEARTS AWAY, NATIVE AMERICAN SURVIVAL
YOUTH STUDY:	FOOD, FAITH AND ME
CHILDREN'S STUDY	SUDAN: PIECING TOGETHER PEACE FOR SUDAN

As the world changes around us, as Christian Disciples, we must seek ways to communicate our faith in God and continue our mission to help others. The mission event is a stimulating time. It is a time for ethical questioning and the clarification of values and insights in our scriptural and church heritage about God and God's relation to the world. We are an inclusive group that allows us to interact with each other to learn and grow in our walk with Christ. Please join me at Martin Methodist College as we grow in discipleship for Christ.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
CHRISTIAN MISSION EDUCATION EVENT
TOGETHER AT THE TABLE

Fill out Completely - Please Print

July 8-11, 2009

Martin Methodist College, Pulaski, TN

Name _____ Phone(____) _____
Address _____ E-mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name of Church _____ District _____ Conference _____
UMW Office(s) you currently hold: Local Unit _____ District/Conference _____
Male _____ Laity _____ Missionary _____ Do you need CEU credit? _____ Attending a college/university? _____
Female _____ Clergy _____ Deaconess _____ Employed outside the home? _____ Newly retired? _____
First time to attend a Mission Education Event? _____ Attend 2008? _____ Are you a UMW member? _____
Age Group: 6-11(specify age) _____ 12-17(specify age) _____ 18-35 _____ 36-50 _____ 51-70 _____ 70+ _____

FEES: (check all that apply)
EARLY ARRIVALS.....\$ _____
Wed night room and dinner (\$20.00)FULL TIME (Includes lodging and meals, Thur. thru Sat.. Morning)
.....\$ _____
Adults (\$120.00) _____ Youth (\$80.00) _____ Child (\$50.00) _____
COMMUTERS (Includes lunch and dinner, Thur. and Fri.)\$ _____
Adults (\$75.00) _____ Youth (\$50.00) _____ Child (\$30.00) _____
EVENING CLASSES (Nashville location).....\$ _____
Registration Fee: Adults (\$75.00) To be held at Scarrett Bennett

LATE REGISTRATION: ADD \$15.00 IF POSTMARKED AFTER JUNE 20T \$ _____
TOTAL COST.....\$ _____

Choice of Suite Mate: _____
Allergy, Dietary Needs: _____ Physical Disability Housing Needs _____
IMPORTANT: In case of emergency notify: _____ Contact# _____

STUDIES: Choose either Regular - or - Evening Schedule. All classes are limited to 30 per teacher.
*REGULAR SCHEDULE: (Registration is Thursday 8:30 to 9:30 AM; Opening Thursday 9:30 AM; Concluding noon Saturday)
Adult participants indicate 1st and 2nd choice for regular schedule class/leader.

FOOD AND FAITH SUDAN NATIVE AMERICAN SURVIVAL
Any leader this study _____ Any leader this study _____
Rev. James Clark _____ Mr. Roger Hopson _____ Mrs. Mary T. Newman
Rev. Daniel Hayes _____ Mrs. Joyce Clark _____
Bishop William Morris _____
Mrs. Carol Ackley _____
Did you take the study, Native American Survival in 2008? Yes _____ No _____

Youth and Children Participants:
Youth Study: Food, Faith and Me Onnessia Head
Children's Study: Piecing Together Peace for Sudan Esther Sims and Lynda Kilby

*EVENING SCHEDULE (Check in Wednesday 5:30 to 6:00 PM; Classes Wed., Thurs., Friday 6:00 to 8:15 PM and Sat. 8:30 to 10:45 a m (SCARRETT-BENNETT CENTER, NASHVILLE, TN)
FOOD AND FAITH (Dr Shirley Corry)

Registration DEADLINE, to guarantee a room and pay 50% deposit, is June 20th. After this date, rooms will be booked on an "if available" basis and a late fee will apply. All registrations are to be received by June 30th. Cancellations after June 30th, will be refunded one-half the fee. Mail your registration form early to get the study leader you requested.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: TN CONFERENCE UMW Total paid \$ _____ check # _____ Balance \$ _____
Amount paid by scholarship \$ _____ Scholarship provided by _____

Mail to: Judy Vecchione Registrar, 503 Brick Church Pike, Goodlettsville, TN 37072
For information: Jerlean Bass, Dean, 4965 Alexis Dr., Antioch, TN 37013: (615)833-3533. E-mail - jerleanb@hotmail.com
Additional Contact: Gwen Sales, Assistant Dean, (615)452-6670
For Conference Use: Dorm/Room: _____ Class _____ Teacher _____ Date Rec'd _____

SCHEDULE FOR TENNESSEE CONFERENCE CHRISTIAN MISSION EVENT
 MARTIN METHODIST COLLEGE - PULASKI, TN
 JULY 8-11, 2009

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

2:00-4:00 Study Leaders Arrival
and room set -up

4:30-5:30 Study Leaders &
Team Meeting - Martin Hall
Upperman room

5:30 Dinner

6:00-8:00 Plenary I Practice

THURSDAY, JULY 9

7:00-8:00 Breakfast for Wed. arrivals

8:00-9:00 Registration

Book Room - Resource Open

9:30-10:00 Welcome, Orientation
Introduce Study Leaders
and conference team

10:00-11:30 Open Plenary I
Conference Moments
Announcements

11:30-12:00 Late Registration
Book Room - Resource - open

11:45-12:45 Lunch
Starnes Student Union
Cafeteria

1:00-3:00 Class Session I
All adults, youth and children

3:15-4:15 Plenary II Practice

Book & Resource Room-open

3:30-5:30 Treasurers Meeting

4:00-5:00 Sampler

THURSDAY, JULY 9 (Continued)

5:30-6:30 Dinner
Starnes Student Union

6:45-7:00 Video & Book Room - open

7:00-9:00 Plenary II

FRIDAY, JULY 10

7:15-7:30 Morning Praise
Criswell Hall

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:45-11:00 Class Session II

11:00-11:45 Video & Book Room - open

11:45-12:45 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Book & Resource Room - open
Plenary Practice III

2:00-3:00 Study Time - Video

3:00-5:15 Class Session III

4:30-5:30 Children's Time (Pool)

5:30-6:30 Dinner

7:00-8:00 Sampler

8:30- Study Leader Evaluation
Event Team Meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 11

7:15-7:30 Morning Praise
Criswell Hall

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

8:30-10:45 Class Session IV

10:45-12:00 Closing Plenary III

DISTRICT EVENTS FOR 2009

Clarksville District President: Kay Martin
August 17 District Intergeneration 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 District Unit Presidents' Roundtable, Godwin Chapel UMC Sat. 10 am
Sept. 26 District Annual Meeting and Leadership Training, Franklin 1st UMC

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 1st UMC

Nashville District President: Eileen Vaughan
June 20 District Mission Study, Crieveewood UMC, Sat.
Sept. 26 District Fall Meeting Location TBA, Sat.

Pulaski District President: Beverly Duke
Aug. 15 District Mission Education Event, Coleman Mem. UMC Sat. 9 am
Oct. 17 District Fall Meeting, Prospect UMC, Sat. 9 am

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT UMW PRESIDENT'S REPORT
KAY MARTIN

As I begin my first term as the new president of the Clarksville District United Methodist Women, I am excited to see what God will do, through this organization, in the coming year. I want to thank the district for entrusting me to lead and giving me the privilege of such an exciting experience. God is our leader and our members are his voice. We have a wonderful group of officers and I am looking forward to working with all of them. Each officer is working hard to create programs, events and directory information to make God's song our song. Our numbers at all meetings are up and our collections help many needy causes in our communities. With each meeting we celebrate Jesus and his love. Our local officer update had such a large turnout that we had to bring in more chairs. It was such a great feeling that so many officers wanted to understand their responsibilities. This was a wonderful event and I felt we all left with a mission to further the United Methodist Women leadership for God's love in our communities and churches.

Spiritual Day Apart was planned by Ann Lindsley, our Spiritual Growth Coordinator. She had a wonderful program and Susan Powers gave us a message to lift our spirits. God blessed us that day and continues to speak to us as we remember Susan's message of love and commitment to Jesus Christ our savior.

We have just had our District Mission Study. Nellie Settle and Emily Edwards were co-chairs of this event. The three mission studies were shared and explored. Everyone left with a new understanding of the mission of United Methodist Women in the world. May God bless each of you in your endeavor to make better the lives of women, children and youth.

WONDERFUL LEADERS FOR OUR MISSION EVENT

Jerlean Bass, Dean

For Food and Faith, we have; **Rev. James Clark**, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, **Rev. Daniel M. Hayes, Sr.**, Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church, **Dr. Shirley Corry**, Patterson United Methodist Church, **Bishop William W. Morris**, Gallatin, TN and **Mrs. Carol Ackley** from the Kentucky Conference.

Rev. Roger A. Hopson, assistant to Bishop Richard Wills, and **Mrs. Joyce Clark**, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, will lead the study on Sudan.

Native American Survival will be led by **Mrs. Mary T. Newman**. Mary T. brings insight to the study from a personal level.

Youth Study will be Food, Faith and Me. It will be led by **Ms. Onnessia Head**, a young teacher from Tennessee State University and Key Stewart United Methodist Church.. **Carol Ackley** from the Kentucky Conference.

Youth Study will be Food, Faith and Me. It will be led by **Ms. Onnessia Head**, a young teacher from Tennessee State University and Key Stewart United Methodist Church.

Mrs Esther Sims and Lynda Kilby, will lead the children's study, Sudan: Piecing Together Peace for Sudan. Both ladies are renowned teachers. This is the first year that our Children's study leaders will be certified, just the same as the other leaders.

SUPPORT FOR BETHLEHEM CENTER

Judy Vecchione, Treasurer

Did you know Bethlehem Centers of Nashville is in danger of closing? Due to the economy, donations and grants are down. **If Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women do not respond to this financial crisis, it will close before the summer ends.** Bethlehem Center does not have enough money to stay open for 3 more months!

Bishop Wills is working with Nashville churches, but he reminds us that this is a UMW project. He thinks leadership by the Tennessee Conference UMW will make a difference in the funding. He has challenged us to make a planned commitment to Bethlehem Center

We are asking that every circle take up a free will offering at every meeting for the center for the next six months. In some instances, this will be a small amount. But, when we combine our efforts, we can accomplish miracles. **Bethlehem Center needs our help now**, not at the end of the quarter or the year. Local circles and units are asked to send donations to the District Treasurer as soon as it is collected. She will be able to wire funds to Women's Division and Bethlehem Center will receive the funds the next day. Thank you for your support.

The Conference Calendar 2009

June 11-14	South Atlantic Regional School Wesleyan College Owensboro, KY
July 8-11*	Christian Mission Education Event Event Martin College
Sept. 11-13*	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat United Methodist Assembly Grounds Beersheba Springs, TN
October 10*	Annual Meeting - Shelbyville 1st
Nov. 20-22	Conference Elected Officer



The Call is mailed four times a year to the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer & 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.**

Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women

Berta Perkins
5520 Saddlewood Ln.
Brentwood, TN 37027
615-373-2915
fhp3032@aol.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**TENNESSEE
CONFERENCE
CHRISTIAN MISSION
EVENT:
JULY 8-11, 2009
MARTIN METHODIST
COLLEGE
PULASKI,
TENNESSEE**