

July 2008

Issue 3



The Call

Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women

NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Joyce Clark, President

Inside this Issue:

President's Message	1
Editor's Report	2
Report Deputy General Secretary	2
UMCOR	3
Spiritual Retreat	4
Registration Form	5
Thoughts of a Third Grader	6
New Books	6
<i>Response Magazine</i>	6
District Calendar	7
Nashville District	7
Pulaski District	8
Conference Calendar	9

One of my favorite songs by Ira Stamphill is, "Follow Me" which begins - "I traveled down a lonely road and no one seemed to care, the burden on my weary back had bowed me to despair". I, like so many other people, experience the loneliness and despair in their daily lives. The United Methodist Women has always been there to fill the void in my life and give my life a purpose along with other women striving to follow the teachings of Jesus. Have you read "Response" magazine? The Bible Study gives me different insights to scripture. The stories enlighten me and encourage me to move out of my box into ministry. The Christian Mission Event on July 16-19th will give people the opportunity to study. I want to encourage each United Methodist Women's unit to be involved in one of the studies. If your unit is having a study, invite a unit from another church to join you. Share the studies with your church family - men, women, children and youth. If your district sponsors a study invite a friend to go with you to the study. After the Christian Mission Event, there will be a list of volunteers who will teach the studies, available.

Upcoming events: Mark your calendars for the Spiritual Life Retreat at Beersheba Springs on September 12-14, 2008 and the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting at Columbia First Methodist Church on October 11, 2008.

Planning has begun for the Tri-Conference Legislative event in March, 2009. The theme will be: "The Earth is the Lord's". The planning team is so excited about learning what the Tennessee Legislature is doing to help conserve the earth and what we as United Methodist Women can do to help in our communities. More information will be available this fall.

In 2000, the Congress passed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act. This offers protection to victims from deportation after testifying against perpetrators. On June 22, 2007, the United States Senate passed a Concurrent Resolution 10, declaring January 11 as the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness. United Methodist Women has helped produce "Lives for Sale," an advocacy DVD on behalf of the victims of trafficking. This resource by Maryknoll Productions depicts how victims are trafficked in the U. S. for sexual slavery and what you can do about it. The DVD comes with a study guide. Visit www.livesforsale.com.

The first verse of "Follow Me" closes with: "My feet were also weary upon the Calvary road; the cross became so heavy I fell beneath the load, be faithful weary pilgrim, the morning I can see, just lift your cross and follow close to me." Jesus encourages us to not grow weary in following Him. United Methodist Women - let us come alive through ministry to our fellow brothers and sisters!!!

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!!

Berta Perkins, Communications
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The system we have now for getting the newsletter to you is **slow and expensive**. We have to come up with a better way. My first idea was to use the Internet. I soon discovered that people change their e-mail address a lot more often than they change their home address. Believe me when I say that they change their home address much too often to suit me. **PEOPLE, STAY PUT.**

I need your help. I still want to try the Internet, but I need your e-mail addresses updated. I have contacted a few ladies about trying the new system and they will get their newsletters by e-mail this edition. You, with computers, could get it two weeks earlier than waiting for it to be printed and mailed. **Just think of the money we could save.** You, who have e-mail addresses, or have access to a computer - church, neighbor, child, please share your e-mail address with me. I have many addresses but it would be difficult to check all to see if they are still correct. We don't want you to miss an edition. I will be sending it in a PDF file which most receipts can open.

I believe it would be hard for my computer to handle it, if all of you answered the same day; So, I have a plan. If you are in the Clarksville District, e-mail me the first Monday after you receive The Call. You Columbia District ladies will contact me on Tuesday, Cookeville District on Wednesday, Cumberland District on Thursday, Murfreesboro District on Friday and Nashville District on Saturday. The Pulaski District can contact me whenever they wish. If this schedule isn't good for you, just disregard it and e-mail me at your convenience.

Of course, I will continue to send The Call, by mail, to all of you who do not have access to a computer. If you have any ideas on how we can improve our delivery, don't hesitate to share.

News From the Women's Division

Excerpts from an E-mail

Harriet Jane Olson, Deputy General Sec.

You have probably been reading in the paper or hearing on the news about immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in many communities across the country in the recent weeks. With this increase in raids and detention, we are reminded of our commitments to women, children and youth and want to explore how United Methodist Women are responding and can respond in the future. This builds on our historic commitments to immigrant women, our current initiative on immigrant and Civil Rights, and on the Campaign for Children which in all three phases has emphasized the importance of the health, well-being and education of all children.

We know of some UMW's effort to specifically address the realities of ICE Raids and immigration detention centers. Can you share your experiences:

Our Global Ministries program, Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), is responding with legal services (<http://gbgm-umc.org/UMcor/refugees/justiceforourneighbors.cfm>).

We have two powerful new General Conference resolutions on US and Global Migration which Women's Division directors helped to develop.

For information on detention centers and ICE Raids, check out these web sites. (<http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org>) and (<http://raidreport.blogspot.com>)

This is a time for prayer and for action. We lift up those families torn apart by raids, and those in detention centers.

REMEMBER
Spiritual Life Retreat!!!
 Nellie Settle, Spiritual Growth

Theme: Publish Glad Tidings
Date: September 14th through 16th, 2008
Where: Beersheba Springs, Tennessee

STUDY BOOK
Jesus' Parables of the Lost and Found
 by
 James W. Moore

This book is listed in the Spiritual Growth Reading Program. We can find ourselves and God's truth for us, in these truth - stories. Please, purchase and begin to read and study. Thank you!

Remember: The offering, at the Spiritual Life Retreat 2008, will be for Miriam's Promise.

Remember: Please pray for our Spiritual Life Retreat.

Remember: To sing God's songs, and God's mission.

Remember: God's work in the world. "What Does the Lord Require of Us?" Read Micah 6:8.

Remember: Matthew 28:18-20 "Publish Glad Tidings"
 Go, make and be a disciple of all nations.

Remember: Focus on Christ and we will have Spiritual Growth
 in our lives and nation.

How to get to Beersheba Springs

From Nashville, take I-24 East toward Chattanooga. Travel approximately 70 miles to exit 127, Pelham/Winchester. Turn left onto Highway 50 and go through the town of Pelham, cross Highway 41, bear left at Highway 108, and continue on Highway 50 until it dead ends in front of the Altamont Courthouse. Turn left onto Highway 56 and go approximately 5 miles to Beersheba Springs. Turn left onto Dalgren Ave. beyond the Beersheba Springs Post Office. The camp sign is on the left of the highway. Enter the Assembly through an open gate or through the front entrance to the main hotel building.

**TENNESSEE CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT
Beersheba Springs Assembly Ground
September 12-14, 2008**

Registration Deadline is August 15, 2008.
(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 _____

Is this your first time at this retreat? _____
Do you have trouble with stairs? _____

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 of accompanying adult: _____
Relationship to accompanying adult: _____

Contact person in case of emergency: (all)
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.**

REGISTRATION FEES

(Fees include cost of registration, 6 meals, and lodging.)

NEW LODGING:

ADULTS	\$120
CHILD	\$ 70
YOUTH	\$ 100

All of these rooms will sleep 3 or 4 people. Linens are included and each room has a private bath. If you want to stay in these rooms, please give your first and second choice.

Turner Lodge _____
East Side _____
Upper Neal _____

ORIGINAL SETTING:

ADULTS	\$100
CHILD	\$60
YOUTH	\$80

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

Marvel Row _____
Brick Row _____
Log Row _____
Lower Neal _____
2nd Floor Hotel _____

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:
Nellie Settle
211 Crutcher Lane
Dover, TN 37058

Cancellations must be made by: September 1, 2008

Conference Use Only: Date Received _____ Amount Received _____ Check No. _____

Roommate (s) _____

Notes from UMCOR

UMCOR Sager Brown Changes Kit Contents

Changes to two United Methodist Committee on Relief kits have been made to improve the quality of the items received by people in need around the world. The changes affect the health and school kits, two of the most popular kits sent from UMCOR Sager Brown, the relief supply depot in Baldwin, Louisiana .

School Kit Change

(Delete Construction Paper. Add a package of lined paper or a third notebook.)

Responses to the school kits have implied that children are in more need of notebook paper than construction paper. To meet that need, the packet of multi-colored construction paper that was once on the list for inclusion in school kits has been replaced with either a third notebook or a package of lined paper.

Health Kit Changes

(Delete toothpaste. Add \$1.00 to cover cost to purchase toothpaste when needed.)

When health kits arrive at the depot, they are stored until they are needed. Sometimes the kits wait for quite some time before they are shipped. In that time the toothpaste can pass its expiration date and therefore will need to be replaced before shipping. To prevent this, UMCOR Sager Brown requests that it be removed from the kit contents.

In its place please sent \$1.00 which will be used to purchase toothpaste in bulk. The toothpaste will be added to the kits at the warehouse to ensure the product is fresh.

Church World Service is also implementing these changes to their kits. UMCOR and Church World Service together on kit contents to ensure that the organizations can support one another in relief supply distribution, especially in the case of large disasters.

I Know Who God Is

Written by a Third Grader

“I know who God is and His main job is making people. He makes these to put in place of the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn’t make grownups. Just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make.

“His second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on and some people, like preachers and things, pray at other times besides bedtime. God doesn’t have time to listen to the radio or TV on account of this.

“Jesus is God’s son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and doing miracles and trying to teach people about God who didn’t want to learn. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn’t know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK.

“His dad (God) appreciated everything He had done and all His hard work on earth, so He told Him He didn’t have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His dad out by listening to prayers and seeing which things are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God with. Kinda like a secretary, only more important, of course. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear because they’ve got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

It’s good to know God is around when you’re scared of the dark or when you can’t swim very good and you get thrown in real deep water by big kids.

“God is very busy, so you shouldn’t go wasting His time by going over your parents’ heads and asking for something they said you couldn’t have.

“God can go everywhere with you and you will never be lonely!”

New Books

Who Stole My Church by Gordon McDonald

This book is about changes in the churches and how we can accept them.

Three Simple Rules by Bishop Rueben Job

Bishop Job has polarized John Wesley’s general rules

The Crises of Younger Clergy by Lovett H. Weems and Ann A. Michel

Response Magazine

The May edition is a must-read. It contains stories about peace making and the difference between Charity and Justice. Such as:

Charity

A matter of responding to specific individual needs

Can be done individually or by a few

Is a short-term fix

Sharing of things and money

Safe, easy and comfortable

Justice

A matter of addressing public policy and systems to benefit the whole of humanity

Requires organizing and building a community

Is a long-term fix

Requires personal engagement and involvement

Risky, demanding and may push our boundaries comfort levels.

District Events in 2008

Clarksville District

Aug. 17.....Intergenerational Event at Ft. Donelson UMC in Dover from 2-4pm
Oct. 25District Annual Meeting at Dickson UMC in Dickson from 9am-12pm

Columbia District

Sept. 20District Annual Meeting and Leadership Training at Hohenwald

Cookeville District

Oct. 25District Annual Meeting 9:30 am Location to be announced

Cumberland District

Oct. 25District Annual Meeting at Old Hickory UMC & Executive Team Meeting

Murfreesboro District

Nov. 1.....District Annual Meeting, Winchester UMC

Nashville District

Sept. 27.....District Fall Meeting - Forest Hills UMC

Pulaski District

Aug 16.....Mission Education Event - Coleman Memorial UMC 9:00 a m
Oct. 18District Fall Meeting - Waynesboro First UMC - 9:00 a m

NEWS FROM THE NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Eileen Vaughan, President

The Nashville District has had a busy year so far and looks forward to even more activities to come. Our Spring Meeting was enjoyed by all as Dot Anderson shared her missionary experiences in Africa with vivid descriptions and humorous stories. It was truly inspiring and powerful.

Our Mission Study this year was held at East End United Methodist Church with Jo Booth leading the discussion on Israel-Palestine. Having spent time in Israel, she brought to life the condition of the people there and perspective on the complicated situation. We learn that there is hope for the region. An international group called "Coalition of Women for Peace" (www.coalitionofwomen.org) includes both Palestinian and Israeli women working together to bring about peace and stability for all the families in these two countries. Our United Methodist Women Women's Division, with your financial support, is able to provide these studies which raise our awareness and prayers of compassion.

Our Fall Program, **Who is Our Neighbor** will spotlight another organization formed by the UM General Board of Global Ministries. "Justice for our Neighbors" located at Hillcrest UMC, offers hospitality to the immigrant in our midst through legal support services and community building. We are excited to hear more about this important ministry and hope to become involved in their activities.

As I've participated in events around our district and talked to many of our members, I'm amazed and inspired by the scope of Mission work our members are doing. We are truly fulfilling our UMW Purpose to be in Mission for Women, Children and Youth!

NEWS FROM THE PULASKI DISTRICT

President, Beverly Duke

The Women of the Pulaski District United Methodist Women continue to work together to reach the goals of the UMW Purpose. One new focus is "Take Action to Save the Earth." Ruby Stegall, Social Action, presented the following to our District Committee and included it in our district newsletter, *The Spirit and the Flame*.

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
The world and all its people belong to Him. Psalms 24:1

Too often we forget that the earth is the Lord's, and as Christians we must take an active role in caring for God's creation and protect this earth of which God has blessed us to be caretakers. While we cannot control what other persons do, we can examine our own lifestyles and make some changes. Read *Earth Trek-Celebrating and Sustaining God's Creation* from the 2008 Reading Program.

From the Charity Guide for Environmental Protection, these are ways that everyone can "protect the environment in just 15 minutes."

- * Plastic Bags? Bring canvas bags instead
- * Remove yourself from junk mail lists
- * Switch to natural cleaning products
- * Drink shade grown coffee
- * Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs
- * Give environmentally conscious holiday gifts
- * Banish pesticides from your garden
- * Reduce your impact on the greenhouse effect
- * Ride your bicycle instead
- * Conserve water
- * Leave grass cuttings on your lawn
- * Wash clothes in cold water
- * Hand-me-down used clothing for women
- * Cell phone recycling: Donate your old mobile phone
- * Re-use, Refill, Recharge
- * Stop littering cigarette butts
- * Eat more Vegetarian dishes - Use less meat
- * Prevent water pollution, clean up after your dog
- * Save money while generating less garbage

These are great ideas that most of us can utilize and make real changes in our environment that has been entrusted to us by our creator.

Another new Pulaski District unit was organized on March 11th at Dunn UMC in Lawrence County. Our Conference President, Joyce Clark, and several district officers were present for the organizational meeting. Congratulations go out to our newest unit, Dunn United Methodist Women!

The Spring District Meeting was held at Horse Creek Sanctuary on March 29th. Units of Robertson's Chapel UMC, Eureka UMC and Lutts UMC hosted the meeting. The day was miserably rainy and cold but their hospitality warmed the event. We again thank those three Hardin County units. The offering, which totaled \$323.00, was for the Sadie Tillman Scholarship Fund at Martin College.

The District Mission Education Event will be held at Coleman Memorial UMC in Lawrenceburg on August 16th and our District Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 18th at Waynesboro UMC.

Kits for UMCOR are being collected, labels for Red Bird Mission and used eyeglasses.

We hope to see you at future conference and district events, especially at the Conference and District Mission Education Events and the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Beersheba Springs. God bless you all.

The Conference Calendar

September 12-14* **Spiritual Enrichment Retreat**

October 11* **Annual Meeting - Columbia First**

Nov. 21-23 Conference Elected Officer
Leadership Training
St. Louis, Mo

Publish

Glad

***Registration Required-Conference-wide event**

Tidings

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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