

Greetings from the President

Happy New Year! By the time you read this newsletter, those will be old words. We finished 2008 with a lot of concerns. High gas prices, rising unemployment, wondering if our new president will be tested by the world as the new vice president predicted, bailout plans. So many things to trouble us. And then we begin 2009 with news articles telling us of new company closings and renewed violence between Palestine and Israel. How can we possibly have a happy year?

As I was doing my devotions this morning and preparing a Sunday School lesson entitled, "What Is Your Security?" I was reminded that we are not in control, God is. He is the reason that we can have a happy year. It may not be the year that we want but it can be the year that we need. The scriptures remind us that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Look at all the hardships the new church had. Being persecuted couldn't have made for a happy year for those early Christians. But God was with them and led them. They had only to choose to be led. So is the same for us, we simply have to choose to let God take care of us.

Now that doesn't mean that we can simply sit back and do nothing. That is just not in our nature. We are people of action. Our UMW Purpose is a statement of action and a recipe for having a happy year. First, know God. Make sure your happy year is filled with study, prayer, reading both Bible and faith filled books. Then make sure you surround yourself with a creative, supportive fellowship. Mark your calendars for the UMW events and then attend them. Get to know women from around the district who share your beliefs and values. Finally, expand your concepts of mission. For those that have steady jobs, find ways to support those that have lost jobs recently. Maybe it is simply giving a bit more than you pledged to help those who have lost income. Maybe it is simply giving a bit more than you pledged to help those who have lost income. If we follow the plan, 2009 can truly be a happy year. Will you choose to let God show you how to have a happy new year?

Tanya Alvord

Email: twalvord@hotmail.com

Purpose

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ: to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The Sun Greetings from The Treasurer

Sanford District UMW Newsletter

In 2008 you talked the talk and walked the walk by demonstrating what the purpose of the UMW is all about.

Our district had a most successful financial year. Your response to my request “that we increase our number of 7 Star Unit” was great. We had twenty-three 7Star units and 5 7Star members. The 7Star Units will be honored at our annual meeting in October 2009.

Mission Giving Funds

- A. The Women’s Division General Board of Global Ministries decide how mission giving funds will be used.
- B. Emily Innes is the Vice President of this board and she is from the North Carolina Conference.
- C. The Response Magazine often have articles about specific receiving support from these funds.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year Albert Settle Email: Alberta@pinehurst.net

Greetings from Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Our Day Apart is one of our highlights of The Sanford District UMW Unit. Day Apart is an event sponsored by The United Methodist Women. This is our spiritual time to talk with God and to listen for Him, a time to create a renewed heart. Please plan to take the time to reflect and join us for this event. Our guest speaker will be Sue Owens from Spartanburg, SC. This event is schedule for April 25, 2009 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Mt. Gilead United Methodist Church.

Also, mark your calendars for our NC Conference UMW Spiritual Enrichment retreat. It will be held again at Haymount UMC in Fayetteville, NC on May 15-16. There are Friday evening sessions and Saturday Sessions. Rev Toni Wood, pastor of Newland UMC, will be our speaker. She is going to speak on three topics: To Create: Lemonade our of Lemonds: To Create: A Way to Avoid Obstacles: To Create: A New Way to Express an Old Truth and this session will include communion. If you plan to attend both Friday and Saturday events and need a hotel, the conference has a block of rooms at the Wingate. You can call 910-826-9200 to reserve your room. Ask for the UMW block. The cost of the retreat is \$10.00. The Friday meal costs \$10.00 and the Saturday meal costs \$8.00. The hotel rooms costs \$105.00 plus tax.

Both the Day Apart and the Spiritual Enrichment retreat will provide you a time to be with God, which is part of our UMW purpose. Don’t miss out on these opportunities. Carrie Ritter Phone: 910-464-3432



2009—To
Create

*“Create in me a
pure heart, O
God, and renew
a steadfast spirit
within me.*

Psalms 51:10

Greetings from Membership, Nurture and Outreach

My name is Teresa Bruton and I am the new Membership, Nurture and Outreach representative for the Sanford District. I hope to be able to carry on with the work that Janice Britson did as MNO representative. Please let me know if I can be of any help to you. We are looking for new and creative ways to encourage new membership and to keep the members that we have now. I welcome any suggestions that you may have — together we can build our membership.

I have enjoyed being a member of United Methodist Women. I have welcomed the fellowship and support when I have needed it and I hope that other women also feel good and want to continue to be members of the United Methodist Women.

Teresa Bruton

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*You could call
God's hand on
you "the touch of
greatness." You do
not become great;
He becomes great
through you.*

Celebrating McQueen Chapel

Our District celebrates the addition of 25 ladies at Sanford's McQueen Chapel as our newest unit as of August 31, 2008! With anticipation and joy, I drove down the long drive to this beautiful church, to share in the reorganization service for Rev. Doris Fox's spiritually strong and eager group of ladies who sought US out!

They have been active in local missions as "Women on the Move for Christ" for many years, but held a strong desire to connect to the many levels of UMW. They want to participate and learn from our district and conference meetings! Wow! I was overjoyed with our conversation in July. Rev. Fox chose being president of UMW as a focus during her health leave time as a Rockingham District minister to serve as their UMW president.

Recently they held a "Women in Pink" fundraiser that netted \$2000 for four college scholarships, and 10% to cancer research in memory of 3 members who died from cancer. They also honored their own high school graduates and those of a neighboring church with a Bible presentation ceremony.

We appreciate Rev. James Malloy's support of this group and his automatic membership into UMW. We welcome each of you into our District UMW family and look forward to being in mission alongside you!

Janice Britson

Email: rdbritson@embarqmail.com

Chatham Subdistrict Meeting

The Sun Sanford District UMW Newsletter

One of the new events scheduled for 2009 will be quarterly subdistricts meetings. Each quarter one of the subdistricts will meet to have a fellowship and learning time. The first one for 2009 will be Chatham subdistrict. We will meet on March 14 from 3-5pm at Chatham UMC (located on Chatham Church Rd off of I5-50I just south of Pittsboro). All UMW members who live in Chatham county are invited and encouraged to attend. Also, plan on bringing your favorite finger foods to share. But remember to bring copies of the recipe. Watch for more information about the program. Mark your calendar and hope to see you there. For more information, contact Barbara Pugh, Chatham Subdistrict leader at bpugh1601@earthlink.net or 919-542-4164.

Greetings from Communications

Happy New Year! Let me tell you a little something about myself. I have loved being associated with UMW for 33 years. I married a wonderful United Methodist man in 1975. My mother in law which I refer to as my second Mom got me involved. I have had many offices in our local unit and now for the first time in the district.

I look forward to getting information from you in the future to let others know what works are going on from the Sanford UMW District. Please share what your local units are doing. Send pictures and an article of what's happening for our next issue.

Brenda McCaskill

Email: brenda.mccaskill@yahoo.com

Greetings Book Review: Dive In To Living Water by: Laurie Polich

Recently the UMW group at Brown's Chapel voted to buy some teen books for our church library. This was one of the books. So when I needed some books from the Reading Program, I borrowed some from our library and this was one of them. I decided to take a break from using the Upper Room for my devotions and to use this book because it was 50 devotions all taken from the Gospel of John. Wow, what a treat. Each day there was a section of John to read and then there as a reading from the author. She wrote in simple, easy to understand language and she used stories that teens could relate to. She also included several insightful questions in each day's devotion. At the end of the 5-0 days, I had read the Gospel of John and picked up some new ideas to apply to my life. I felt that this book was so well written that I am planning to use the devotions as the bible Study guide for my adult Sunday School class for the lessons between Ash Wednesday and Easter. I would encourage everyone to get this book for their church libraries or put it in your teen Sunday School Class. I would also encourage you to buy it give to a teen in your life that you have a special relationship with. We can all use a bit of Living Water.

Tanya Alvord

The Sun

Sanford District UMW Newsletter

Greetings from the Education and Interpretation Coordinator

First, I would like to thank Linda Fields for the wonderful job she has done for the Sanford District as E&I Coordinator for the last 4 years. We have Linda to thank for securing our leaders for the January Mission Studies and for making many of the arrangements. Bear with me next year, as I guess I will be on my own! I hope that many of you were able to attend the mission studies, and that, as a result, you feel better prepared for faithful living and action in today's world. Make a note now on your Local Unit Mission Studies report form (p. 29 in the 2009 Sanford District Directory), of how many members of your unit attended the Mission Studies, so you won't forget!

As a follow-up to the Native American Survival Mission Study, I would encourage you to read more at <http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/NA/> Explore this site as a supplement to the study and to learn more about Native American life today.

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/> is the United Methodist Women website. Bookmark it, so you can check it frequently. You will find lots of up-to-date information there.

Remember also to read the *Response* magazine to learn more about programs and institutions that are supported by United Methodist Women. I always find the articles informative and stimulating. I was especially intrigued by the article about **Africa's First Woman President**, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, (September 2008, p. 20) *whose formal education began at a West African school founded by Methodist missionaries*. I was thrilled and excited to realize the influence the United Methodist Church has had on this amazing and powerful woman. Read the article, and I am sure you will be proud, too!

Let's all work together this year to "expand our concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Rossie Lindsey

Rossie2@embarqmail.com

NCC UMW SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Just a word to remind everyone that each year the North Carolina Conference UMW awards scholarships to young women who are going to one of the UMC schools in our conference. If you know of a young woman who is attending or planning to attend Duke University, Methodist University, Wesleyan or Louisburg College, please get an application and nominate them for one of the scholarships. All applications are due April 15. If you need more information, please contact Tanya Alvord at 919-542-5916 or twalvord@hotmail.com.

Greetings from the Program Resources

How about this for a New Year's resolution – READ! It's easier than ever to participate in the United Methodist Women's Reading Program, thanks to our fearless leader, Tanya. She has gone to the county libraries and found out what books each library has that will fulfill our Reading Program requirements! All you have to do to get this list is to go to our brand-new website www.sanforddistrictumc.org/umw.htm. No more excuses!

I would also encourage you to consider the children's and youth books when you are choosing Reading Program materials. There are some wonderful titles out there that you can read to your children, grandchildren, or children in the church.

One of the books that I have been reading for the New Year is called Faith and Fitness. This book shows how we, as Christian women, can balance our busy lives with our spiritual and physical lives to truly make our bodies temples for the Lord. Another book that I have just started (and which was very popular at the General Meeting and Officers' Training Session) is called Three Cups of Tea. This book tells the true story of a man who is building schools in Iran – one school at a time. It is very inspirational.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to get the brochure for the new books for 2009, but you can go on the website for the United Methodist Women's Service Center and print out a list of books. If I can be of help, feel free to contact me at mlaudate@windstream.net. In the meantime, Happy Reading!

Susan Laudate

An Invitation to all 39 and Under Members

The NC Conference 39 and Under Event is fast approaching and we hope you have marked your calendars and are planning to attend. This year's event will be in Fayetteville at Campground UMC on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28. The registration form is included in this newsletter and needs to be sent as soon as possible. You can also find the registration form on the District website at <http://sanforddistrictumc.org/umw.htm> under the Forms link.

This year's theme is "Create Your Mission". There is dinner and fun on Friday evening and some breakout sessions. Then on Saturday there is more fun, food and breakout sessions. There is also an exciting two part session for teens. You don't want to miss out on this time to be with other younger UMW members who are seeking to create a meaningful mission with Jesus.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact Tiffany Brewer at 910-690-3702 or at tbrewer@moorecountync.gov.

Also, mark you calendars now for the District 39 and Under Event that will be held at Tabernacle UMC on June 6. It promises to be a time of renewal for our own personal Tabernacles!

The Sun Help Wanted

The District Mission Team still has some positions open. Please prayerfully consider if you might be the one to fill a position.

We have the following openings:

- Subdistrict leader for Montgomery County (should be someone living in Montgomery County) and subdistrict leader for Lee County (should be someone living in Lee County) – These positions play a vital role in being the liaison between the District team and the UMW groups in that geographical area. If a UMW group in that area needed a resource or clarification on an item, that unit could reach out to their subdistrict leader. Also the subdistrict leader is responsible for coordinating an event each year specifically for the units in the subdistrict. This event can be a fellowship or educational meeting. The subdistrict leaders are required to attend the four Mission Team meetings each year as well as other district and conference events.
- Committee on Nominations members. Our district standing rules say that we will have six members on our Committee on Nominations. Currently we have four members. We have representation from Moore, Montgomery and Chatham County. The members of this committee are responsible for identifying UMW members within the district who have leadership capabilities and a desire to serve. We need to have additional members from Lee County. The term is for three years.

If you would consider serving in one of these capacities, please contact Linda Fogleman, Chairperson of Nominations at 910-281-4315 or dlfogleman@windstream.net to let her know of your interest and need for more information. Once you have the chance to serve on the district level, you really begin to see how we are all truly interconnected in God's work. Don't miss out on this opportunity.

UMW MISSION STUDIES FOR 2009 JANUARY 24TH, 9AM–1PM REGISTRATION BEGINS 8:30

St. Luke UMC, Sanford

Bring a bag lunch, drinks will be provided.

Each year United Methodist Women members prepare themselves for faithful living and action in today's world by taking one of three mission studies. The studies focus on a spiritual growth topic, a geographic area and a current issue. All three studies will be taught at the same time so we hope that each UMW unit will have at least one participant in each study.

Israel and Palestine—led by Susan Eudy is being repeated, so those who were unable to take it last year will have another opportunity. This is the geographic study focusing on the history and complexities of relationships between these nations, and the concepts of security and freedom that dominate the lives of these peoples.

Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival—led by Rev. Robert E. Shelton. The issue study sharing the story of Indigenous peoples of the United States from a Native American perspective to understand the inter-relatedness of Native Americans and their lands, key issues affecting Native American communities today and Native American cultural perspectives on spirituality, the environment and community.

I Believe in Jesus—led by Kathryn Self. The spiritual growth study addressing the gift of faith in Jesus Christ and the meaning of that faith in a post-modern world.

The Mission studies are opportunities for us, as United Methodist Women, to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. The studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of women in the fulfillment of mission. This mission education program strengthens the leadership and membership of United Methodist Women.

Rossie Lindsey, E&I

Rossie2@embarqmail.com

Brain Teaser

There are 16 books of the bible hidden in the following paragraph. Can you find them? It has taken some as many as three weeks to find the sixteenth one. Good Luck!

“I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept others people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to have been a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this story.”

Sanford District 2009 Directory Corrections

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The Sun

Sanford District UMW Newsletter

Greetings from Social Action

We are expecting 2009 to be the best year ever for our Social Action! This area is one of the most important in the UMW because it encourages our mission work in so many different ways.

This year, our Conference has chosen the focus issues to be health care, poverty/homelessness, and immigration. In the past the conference leadership has provided a workshop for district officers. That is changing this year and you are all invited. During the annual 39 and Under conference event, there will be a focus on social action in a workshop called Hands on Justice. This workshop will be from 8:45am—11:00am on Saturday, February 28 at Campground UMC in Fayetteville. It is open to women of all ages. This session will be led by Rev. Carol Goehring who is working to put together a list of hands on mission opportunities for each district. To register for this session, you must fill out the 39 and Under Registration form. If you only plan to attend the Hands On Justice session, do not fill out the Friday session info. The cost of the Hands On Justice session is \$15.50. You are also invited to have lunch with the 39 and Under participants. The cost of lunch is \$6.00.

Our District will be emphasizing health care on March 21 with a workshop at Jonesboro UMC in Sanford. We have lined up several excellent speakers and will have lots of resources for each county in our district. Please encourage your unit to attend—this will be something you won't want to miss! Frequently in the past when this event, we encourage you to bring your old medications to be "recycled". There is a clinic in Sanford that can re-dispense medications to those who cannot afford them. So if you have some medications that you will no longer be taking, and they are in the original container with the original label, bring them to help those less fortunate. There are issues that we cannot solve, but we can work to make them more bearable for some. (A hint: By attending either the conference or the district social action events, you meet the Mission Today #4 criteria!!)

Please continue to make the health kits, school kits, sewing kits, and layettes and distribute them locally wherever you see the need. Also, you may donate your old eyeglasses to the Lions Club.

Recently there has been news about the Campbell soup company and their support of homosexuality. At this time, the North Carolina Conference is not going to take a stand on the issue. The conference leadership has encouraged each unit to be familiar with UMC stance on homosexuality as found in our church's Social Principles. Your unit may choose to write a letter to the Campbell soup company expressing your opinion. If you choose to continue to buy Campbell soup, then the Campbell labels should be the UPC Code ONLY, including the "Campbell kid logo" when it is on the label and should be sent to Methodist College.

I hope to see you all on January 24 at St. Luke UMC for the Mission Studies! Keep up the good work!

Sheryl Nelson
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