

Greetings from the President: Tanya Alvord

Welcome to a new calendar year. I say calendar because we are moving in to January but for UMW activities, we are actually at the almost half way mark for the reporting year. Yes, I know it is confusing. But it does give us many opportunities to celebrate all year long.

2009 was a challenging year. We all felt the pinch of the economic crisis and that impacted a lot of what we did in our local units. We saw a decrease in attendance at District and Conference UMW events and meetings. That saddens me because the greatest benefit to being in UMW is the strength we get from being connected together. I grew up in an independent Baptist church. I only could call on the immediate church family. But being a United Methodist has opened the world to me. I know that I could reach out to any of the people listed in the Prayer Calendar and know that we share a common bond. Going to the UMW meetings only gives me a glimpse of what heaven is going to be like. Just imagine all the fun we will have with the great cloud of witnesses. I challenge you to not miss out in 2010. The events are being planned with great care.

The other issue in 2009 is that we did not meet our District Pledge to Mission. I know that the budget and the pledge for 2009 were set in the summer of 2008 when things weren't as financially tight as they are now. But the concern that I have is that we let fear get the better of us. We missed the pledge by a mere \$2000. When we have 55 units in the district, that amount could have been paid by about \$40 extra from each unit. I know we have very small units where \$40 is an almost insurmountable amount. But we also have very large units where \$40 is a drop in the bucket. Regardless, the woman in the temple gave her copper pennies and Jesus saw her sacrificial giving. I hope that each of us, me including, will look at whether we are giving God our best gift. Are we giving, either money or time, what God is telling us to give? Or are we trying to be in control and give what we think we can give? For 2010 we did reduce our district pledge to only \$29,000. I am praying that we can let God truly work in us and we achieve that plus more. Remember, there are people throughout the world waiting on us to simply be faithful. They are praying to God for relief that we can provide. Won't you join me in prayerful consideration of what God wants us to do?

Purpose of United Methodist Women

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

Greetings from The Vice President

Paula Garrison

Happy New Year! This year our Quadrennial theme is To Carry. What are we going to To Carry with us this year? Maybe a determination to improve our prayer life, do an individual or group Bible study, attend local and district meetings and events and become active in their mission work. Those are a few of the things that I am making a commitment To Carry through the year with me. I will also be working to distribute more information about the Church Women United to the local units. I am searching for CWU units in the counties of our district and when I have any information I will send it out to the local units of those counties. May God surround us with his blessings and set our feet on the path of his choosing. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at St. Luke's on January 23rd at the Meal Packing for Stop Hunger Now.

Greetings from Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Patricia Pemberton

News from our new District Spiritual Growth Leader, Patricia Pemberton, who currently serves as President of the Jonesboro United Methodist Church UMW unit. I am excited about the upcoming Spiritual Day Apart to be held at Goldston UMC on March 27, 2010 from 9-12:00 AM. Our theme will be Creating From the Heart. I will be coordinating prayer, speaking, and other activities centering around that theme. Please bring with you to the meeting a tea cup (coffee cup) which has a saucer. A mug will not work. You may be asked to share anything special about your tea cup selection. Also, you are encouraged to bring along a handmade quilt. It might be one your mother made or one a friend gave you. It could even have some fabric from clothes worn by some of your family members. Maybe it was a wedding present, or one that features some of your own stitches, one in which you wrapped your baby, or it could be that you just like the quilt patterns. Let your heart rule your decision and bring a quilt of your choosing.

Special music will be provided (You have to be present to hear it)! Come; bring a friend and let me tug at your heartstrings.

SANFORD DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL DAY APART,
MARCH 27, 2010
GOLDSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Greetings from Membership, Nurture and Outreach Teresa Bruton

Happy New Year to everyone. As we enter a new year, I hope that all of you will think of someone that you can invite to visit a circle meeting this year—remember, you don't have to be a member of the Methodist Church to be a member of the United Methodist Women.

What are some reasons to join United Methodist Women? Some of the reasons are: Spiritual growth, support from our sisters in Christ, ability to be in mission with others locally, nationally and globally, reading programs, to be supportive of other church members and church functions.

Being a member of the United Methodist Women has met a lot to me and the support from my local unit has been wonderful when I have needed help. I would like to know that the United Methodist Women will still be a viable organization for future generations—both for the new members that aspire to grow spiritually and to serve God and for all of the missions that they will support.

If you have ideas that you would like to share to increase membership or if you have questions, please let me know. Teresa Bruton, Membership, Nurture and Outreach, tbruton@embarqmail.com

Online UMW Unit for Sanford District

The online community for the Sanford District has been slow to get started. Over the holidays I actually got to see a show with the developer of Facebook (He is 25 years old and a millionaire!!). He gave some great ideas to make the social networking software work a bit better and easier.

So be on the lookout for some changes to our Sanford District UMW site.

Til then, if you are interested in joining and have a Facebook account, please email Tanya Alvord at twalvord@hotmail.com. This online unit is going to be private and you will not be able to find it by searching within Facebook. Pass the word to all the women in your church that they can now have an active part of UMW without ever leaving the comfort of their homes.

Membership to the online unit will be open to all women of the Sanford District. But the membership that we report to the conference will be only those women who do not belong to their church's local unit. We don't want to double count women and overinflate the UMW numbers for the conference!

PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE:

As some of you know, our former Social Action Coordinator, Sheryl Nelson, moved to Fayetteville. After moving closer to her children, she learned that her son Cameron had a very serious brain tumor. He was diagnosed just days after his baby girl was born. We have been praying for Cameron and his family as he has gone through surgery and now we need to continue to pray as he faces the next months with radiation and chemo. Sheryl's email is wingedent@embargmail.com. I am sure she would love to hear from you.

Greetings from the Treasurer**Alberta Settle**

The 2009 financial year has been a challenge. Our district came up a bit short of making our pledge to Mission. There will be more details to follow in the 1st quarter Treasurer's letter. We encourage all treasurers to share that info with their local units.

Please view the UMW "Mission Giving" DVD that was passed out at LOTs (local officer training). The DVD mentioned five avenues of giving but the NC Conference has added 2 more: Candle Burning and Penny and a Prayer. Your unit needs to give to all avenues in 2010 to be considered as a Seven Star Unit. And individual members can give in all seven avenues to become a Seven Star Member. If you were not at LOTs, there will be copies available at the District Mission Study event. The DVD was a gift from the Women's Division Treasurer, Martha Sherman Knight, when she spoke at Pinehurst UMW.

Our District has pledged the following amounts for 2010: Pledge to Missions: \$23,000; Special Mission Recognition pins: \$1120; Gift to Mission cards: \$540; Gift in Memory cards: \$520; World Thank Offering: \$2100; Candle Burning: \$1500; A Penny and a Prayer: \$1000; Love offering: \$50. That comes to \$29,830 total for the district. Remember that we have 55 units actively working in mission. This goal seems very achievable. Let's see if God can encourage us to carry an overflowing cup to those who need it.

Please be in prayer how your unit can faithfully give what God is calling you to give. Who can you order a pin for? What about a birthday card for a shut in member? Maybe a lunch after worship one Sunday to support the World Thank offering? Will your unit choose candle burning in honor of your minister? Lots of opportunities to support mission.

I look forward to seeing you January 23rd for Mission Studies and Stop Hunger Now Project.

Blessings

Alberta

Methodist Home for the Children

Please remember February 21, 2010 and plan to save your extra money to give to MHC collection day, that is Methodist Home for the Children. This is one important gift you do not want to forget. This agency does wonderful things for the youth of North Carolina, the ones who have no family or whose family cannot or does not care for them as most children should be cared for. This agency helps give children hope and encouragement to sometimes abandoned children and sometimes families with counseling are able to resume the care of their children. There are 1/2 million kids in foster care as of now in the US and if we can help even a small amount of children it will be worth it. The folks in charge take care to use the money given to them wisely as 84 cents on the dollar goes to help children. How many charities can claim this record. Remember this is February 21 in each Methodist Church. Pass the word around and lets make this one special day. Thank you.

Greetings from the Education and Interpretation Coordinator**Start off the New Year right!****District Mission Studies January 23, 9 AM – 1 PM at St. Luke in Sanford**

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, let me remind everyone of the mission studies. We have excellent teachers lined up for all three studies.

The geographical study, ***The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible*** will be led by Steve Taylor.

The Social issue study, ***Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival***, will be offered again this year, and will be led by Dr. Ruth Woods.

Food and Faith is the spiritual growth study and will be led by Rev. Grace Hackney.

I encourage each unit of United Methodist Women to make a special effort to have at least one member in each of these studies. Come to learn, return to share.

Bring a bag lunch. Drinks will be provided.

Then stay for the Stop Hunger Now Food Packaging event!

Rossie Lindsey
E&I Coordinator

Are You Planning To Be At The Stop Hunger Now Packaging Event?

If not, then you are going to miss out on a wonderful opportunity to give of your time in mission. So often we are asked to give our money (and some churches did participate generously in giving toward this project) but this time you are being asked to give of your time.

When you finish with the District Mission Studies (which includes a study on food and faith), plan on moving to the Family Life Center at St Luke UMC in Sanford and give of your time. As of the first of January, we are aware that we have raised enough funds to package between 20,000 and 30,000 meals. That is going to take a lot of hands to fulfill. So, invite your youth group, your men's group, your neighbor who doesn't attend church and come. If you aren't coming to the District studies, then show up at St Luke around 2p. It is going to be fun and so rewarding. Don't miss out!

Coming Events

Save The Date – UMW General Assembly Planned for 2010

Every four years the United Methodist Women really do unite for a time of fellowship, worship and work. General Assembly is planned for April 29 through May 2, 2010 in St Louis , MO. The theme for 2010 is Faith, Hope Love In Action. The vision statement is

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

Faith

Our belief in the promise 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.

The scripture for the event is Colossians 1:3-6.

We are currently working on different modes of transportation to get the best possible price. Be on the look-out for some fundraisers that the District Team are planning. We hope to be able to offer a scholarship to a woman who wants to go to Assembly but is not part of the Conference or District UMW team. Want to know more? Check out the Women's Division website at <http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umw/assembly/>

Greetings from Communications**Brenda McCaskill**

Please send me your information to put in our newsletter. Pictures are enjoyable to have in our local mission page. Let us know what you are doing in your local units.

I hope you have enjoyed The Sun in 2009. Wonderful things are to come in 2010. Mission work local and aboard are so needed and we are the group to carry out Gods will.

You may email me with your articles at brenda.mccaskill@yahoo.com or write me at 575 W Baltimore Ave Pinebluff NC 28373.

UP COMING EVENT

The Conference Spiritual Enrichment retreat which is held in May (More Info will be in the April newsletter) will have the special treat of having Sue Owens from Spartanburg, SC be the guest speaker. Sue was the Sanford District speaker for 2009. So those that got to hear her in our district retreat can hear her again. And for those that missed her in the district event have the opportunity to hear her for the first time. She compared God to pantyhose!! You won't want to miss hearing how God is like pantyhose. Mark your calendar for May 14-15 in Smithfield.

Happy Birthday Mt Vernon UMW

We are very grateful that Miss Queen Smith likes to keep information pertaining to her church. Because of her we have records dating back to the organization of the UMW at Mt. Vernon.



July 1090 Women's Home Missions Society was organized with 25 members. President was Mrs. J.W.Johnson. Dues were 10 cents for women and 5 cents for girls. Mrs. Ida Smith was one of the first members and remained an active and faithful member until her death in March 1984.

During 1910's-1920's March 5, 1911 name changed to Ladies Aid Society. Miss Whitehead was President with 26 members on roll. The Ladies Aid Society met every 4th Sunday before preaching. The Society helped to buy or bought panes for windows, a Bible for the pulpit, lamp for the church, a stove, steps and seats for Sunday School, a new piano and varnish for furniture and made a silk quilt to help paint the church. The Ladies also assisted in the up keep of the church. Members were appointed to sweep the church floor for a month.

During 1930's-1940's In 1941 the name changed to Women's Society of Christian Service. They met in the afternoon at homes of the members. In 1935, Society started selling vanilla flavoring, Christmas Cards and flower seeds. Minutes told how many sick visits were made and how many Bible verses were read monthly. Members exchanged Christmas gifts no less than 25 cents and no more than 50 cents.

During 1950's-1960's In 1951 the Society began meeting at night. 1952 dues changed from 10 cents to 25 cents. May 1954 they began preparing meals for the Ruritan Club.

1970's-1980's-1990's 1973 the name changed to United Methodist Women. In 1975 Linda Fields was nominated to serve on the District UMW on the Nominating Committee and later served as Secretary Program Resource in 1976. 1986-1990 Linda Fields served on NC UMW Conference team as Supportive Community Chair. In 1986 Linda Fields and Gail Marshall traveled to the National Assembly in Ca. Linda as a NC Representative and Gail as Duke Divinity School Representative. During the late 80's-90's UMW participated in Shop Food Lion. This was a three day drive collecting shopping receipts from members, friends and families. Food Lion gave 5% of the total purchases to the Methodist Home for Children.

1990 as Supportive Community Chairperson Linda Fields along with Numerous volunteers, held the 1st annual Mother Child Retreat at Camp Chestnut Ridge. Robin James held puppet shows, Ray Gooch, pastor from Brown's Chapel held story time around the camp fire. Local member Carolyn McMath and son Joel attended a few years later. Carolyn also taught a class in later years. The retreat is still held every September and will celebrate its 20th year in September 2010.

Our local unit has also been represented in our district by several other members in the past 20 years. Robin James served on the Committee that published the News Letter 4 times a year to all units in our district. Teresa Smith Pizzea served as Under 39 Representative. Stephanie Edwards served as District Secretary for 4 years during their service her at Mt. Vernon. We begin a student scholarship given 17 students over \$10,000 in 2000-2009.

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Continue MtVernon 100th Birthday

In this decade, our local unit has contributed donations to Family Violence Rescue, purchased animals for families in Africa through the Heifer Project, collected boxes for Franklin Grahams Samaritans Purse, assembled Back Pack School Tool Kits for Silk Hope Elementary students, supplied socks-hats-mittens and gloves for local students, gifted numerous bibles to graduating seniors, prepare and deliver food baskets to shut inn's and elderly during Holiday's and contributed to Toys for Tots for Chatham County as well as the Chatham Food Pantry.

Currently we are a 7 star unit. Accomplishing attendance, hosting and teaching of Mission Studies for our district. Each year we recognize a stand out member as a reciprocate of the Membership Pin. This pin is given as a representation of appreciated for participation in a local unit to a deserving member. I would love to recognize each and every past reciprocate, however I'm proud to say that the list is too long. This in its self exhibits the dedication, the support and the effort each of our Mt. Vernon WMW members holds.

A sincere Thank You to each past and present member for each bottle of flavoring, each Danny Does It Cook-books and each Box of Cards that you have sold to contribute to our missions, local and worldwide. With your support we have shared Gods word with many people local and worldwide. With your support, we have touched and changed the lives of more people than we will ever know or meet. With your support we have spread the love, teachings and works of God for 100 years. Today we are 17 members strong and continue to serve our God alongside our Pastor and each member of Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church. Happy Birthday Mt. Vernon United Methodist Women! I look forward to serving with each one of you in the next 100 years to come.

Linda Fields

LOCAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSIONS

Chatham Subdistrict Meeting Scheduled for 2/20/2010

All churches are invited to attend the subdistrict meetings planned for 2010. We plan to have a subdistrict meeting each quarter but will move from county to county. The focus of the subdistrict meetings for 2010 will be global missions. Make sure that your church knows about the subdistrict meetings and encourage your chairperson of missions to attend. This is not limited to just UMW but will be facilitated by UMW.

The first one for 2010 will be at Mt Pleasant in Pittsboro for the Chatham subdistrict.. We are arranging to have Herbert and Mary Zigbuo which are missionaries to Liberia. Join us from 3-5p as we hear how our financial and prayer support are helping the Zigbuo's be our hands and feet in Liberia. The Lee county subdistrict meeting will be at McQueen Chapel in Sanford on Saturday, March 13, also from 3-5p. The mission speakers for this event have not yet been lined up.

GREETINGS FROM SOCIAL ACTION Ann Morse

Hi! I am Ann Morse, new to social action. I want to strongly encourage everyone to be in mission this year not only for earthly needs but also to answer the call of Jesus to make disciples of all. As John Wesley said: "As he has time, he "does good unto all men;" unto neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies: And that in every possible kind; not only to their bodies, by "feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those that are sick or in prison;" but much more does he labor to do good to their souls, as of the ability which God giveth; to awaken those that sleep in death; to bring those who are awakened to the atoning blood, that, "being justified by faith, they may have peace with God;" and to provoke those who have peace with God to abound more in love and in good works. And he is willing to "spend and be spent herein," even "to be offered up on the sacrifice and service of their faith," so they may "all come unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

2010 Project Sheets

Our 2010 Directory Project Sheets are located on pages 29—33. These pages will be available at the Mission Studies on January 23rd at St. Lukes. There are new mission opportunities on the project sheets this year. We now have 2 within our district. We need to fulfill Wesley's instructions via missions here at home.

Please take advance of these wonderful opportunities for local missions projects. When doing these projects remember to fill out your local unit social action report on page 16 in the directory.

THE 2010“39 & UNDER” EVENT

Sponsored by the North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

“IN GOD’S MISSION WE ARE SENT OUT: TO CARRY”

WHEN: FEBRUARY 26-27, 2010

WHERE: SAINT LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2916 WICKER STREET

SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA 27330

LODGING: COMFORT INN, SANFORD NORTH CAROLINA

Registration Deadline is January 23, 2010.

(Hotel Check-in will be 3:00 pm, please come directly to the hotel and a UMW member will assist you.)

Rev. Suzanne Cobb, will be the guest speaker for the 2010 event. Rev. Cobb is the Associate Pastor of Saint Luke UMC of Sanford, NC.

Friday, February 26, 2010

Registration begins at 5:00 PM; Dinner at 6:00 PM; Service begins at 6:45 PM

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Registration from 8:00 – 8:30 AM; Service begins at 8:30 AM

MOTEL ACCOMODATIONS: Reservations for the Comfort Inn will be made directly with the Event Registrar, Mrs. Joyce Herring. The hotel will have a continental breakfast on Saturday morning.

For more information or questions, please contact Stephanie Houze, Conference 39 and Under Chairperson at (919) 880-5838 or stepwright7@yahoo.com

Gift Exchange: Come prepared by bringing a gift that reflects your interests or personality (i.e. craft, baked item, needlework or something fun you would love to share).

THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS WILL HELP YOU TO CARRY OUT YOUR MISSION WITH JESUS!

WORKSHOP ONE — Faith Sharing – *Carry Your Cross*- Ms. Joanne Stanford

Build your faith and share your story with Joanna and our Christian sisters!

WORKSHOP TWO –Food for the Soul- *Carry Your Spoon*-Ms. Donna Hayes

Whip up tasty treats with Donna that will satisfy your mind, body, and SOUL!

WORKSHOP THREE- Financial Healing- *Carry Your Purse* -Ms. Martha Caves

Take notes on how to be great stewards of money with Martha!

WORKSHOP FOUR- Dancin’ Like Deborah-*Carry Your Rhythm* - Ms. TBA

Join us in organized dances and movements that will put your body to work!

WORKSHOP FIVE- Caught in the “Web”-*Carry your Manual*- Ms. LaNella Smith

Join the Search with Lanella as she teaches us about the Internet and staying safe in its “web”!

WORKSHOP SIX- Singin’ in the Sanctuary -*Carry your Tune*- TBA

Praise our savior through music, ALLELUIA!!!!

Registration Form
All Registrations need to be in by January 23, 2010!!!
Fill out online at www.gbgm-umc.org

Name: _____
Church: _____
Address: _____
District: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Planned Time of Arrival: Date _____ Time _____
Roommate Preferences: If possible, please send registrations together.
1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____
Rooming Preferences: **Comfort Inn has a Smoke-Free environment.** Handicap Accommodations _____
Will you need child care: Yes _____ No _____
Child (ren) Name(s): _____ Age(s): _____
Gender(s): _____

REGISTRATON FORM – 2010 39 AND UNDER EVENT

You can fill out online at www.gbgm-umc.org

- Registration \$15.50 _____
- Friday Dinner \$7.00 _____
- Saturday Lunch \$6.00 _____
- Motel Lodging (4 adults – \$22.50/each 3 adults - \$29.99/each;
2 adults - \$44.99; 1 adult \$89.99) _____
- Total Enclosed** (Make checks payable to NCC-UMW) _____

Vegetarian: yes ___ no ___

Please mark your workshop choices:

(Remember to choose two workshops, regardless if you plan to attend both days or not)

1st Workshop Choice: _____

2nd Workshop Choice: _____

Indicate Your Age Group: 12-18 ___ 19-39 ___ 40-55 ___ 55-70 ___ over 70 ___

Please mail all registrations by January 23, 2010 to: Mrs. Joyce Herring, 1555 Watery Branch, Dunn, NC, 28334.

Directory Updates

Page 4 Peggy Brewer Phone Number 910-576-1411

Page 35 Susan Cox Email sfox@msn.com

Page 35 Marie Johnson Email mariejohnson2008@earthlink.net

Page 38 Brenda Burke Email dburke@wave-net.net

Page 39 Anna Garner Email agarner@mcs.k12.nc.us

Page 41 Carla Jones Email bncjones@nc.rr.com

Greetings from 39 and Under Tiffany Brewer

Greetings and Happy New Year Sanford UMW!

I hope that you have all marked your calendars for a great event coming up next month – February 26-27th. The 2010 39& Under Event will take place at St. Luke UMC in Sanford . Suzanne Cobb, Associate Pastor of Saint Luke will be our guest speaker. There will be six different workshops offered this year. The registration form is found in this newsletter. The Sanford District UMW team will be meeting soon to publish a scholarship for some lucky “young” woman to attend. Those who are **39 & over** don’t have to miss out on the fun. All you need to do is to invite a 39 or younger woman for this is your ticket in the door! (plus a completed registration form and fee) Please make every effort to attend and fellowship with other UMW members! We hope to see you there!

Book Review

Walking The Choctaw Road by Tim Tingle

Walking the Choctaw Road is a youth book containing short stories from the Choctaw Nation. Many of the stories deal with the Trail of Tears legacy and other injustices on the Choctaw nation. Some of the stories were difficult to read because of my lack of knowledge about certain incidences in history and geography. But the stories overall help me to see through the eyes of Native Americans.