

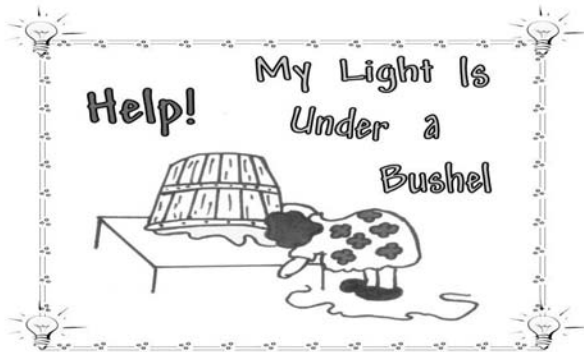
Conference Gram



Volume 55, Number 2

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

April, 2006



Spiritual Growth Retreats

Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women

June 16-17 & June 17-18, 2006

Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska

Retreat Leader:

Rev. Veranita Alvord

Music Team:

Fernando Little, Tiffany Little

The Spiritual Growth Retreats for the United Methodist Women of the Western North Carolina Conference will be held at Lake Junaluska on June 16-17 and June 17-18, 2006. Our theme for the retreats this year is "Help! My Light Is Under A Bushel." Each of us has a God-given light which glows with a special, enduring intensity. Often we allow that light to be "covered up" due to busyness, clutter or because of adverse circumstances in our lives. God wants us to keep that light in a special place, where all can see it, no matter what is going on in our lives, so that we may serve as witnesses for God and the Christian faith. Just as a car needs to be inspected to make sure everything is working properly, so we also need to check and fix our lights if they are not shining as they should. What better place to do that than at beautiful Lake Junaluska - a place where you can spend some quiet time in reflection, study, and prayer with your UMW sisters. We trust that your retreat will be a *special* time of renewal and spiritual growth.

The **first session** will begin at **3:45pm** in Stuart Auditorium with singing under the direction of Fernando and Tiffany Little. Rev. Veranita Alvord of Hoyle Memorial UMC in Shelby will be our retreat

leader. The topic for the first session is entitled, *Help! I Don't Think I Have A Light!* With scripture taken from Psalm 8 and Matthew 5:13-16. After some free time and dinner, **session two** will begin at **7:15pm**. The topic will be *Hiding the Light* with scripture taken from Matthew 23:16-24. Following the evening session, there will be a concert by the Junaluska Singers, which is always a highlight of the retreats. **Session three** will begin at **9:00am** the next morning, with the topic being *Tending the Light*. Matthew 25:1-13 will be the scripture. The **final session** will begin at **10:30am**. Veranita will be presenting the topic *The Dawning of the Light* with Psalm 8 and Matthew 4:12-17 as the scriptural basis.

REGISTRATION will be in Harrell Center from 12:30 to 4:00pm. As soon as you arrive at Lake Junaluska, look for the yellow UMW Registration signs. Stuart Auditorium and Harrell Center are right next to each other on Lakeshore Drive. Parking surrounds the auditorium. We recommend that you **register first** before checking into your room if you are staying on the retreat grounds. **Check in time for the Lake facilities is 3:00pm. PLEASE NOTE:** If you are staying at the Lam-buth Hotel or Terrace Hotel, you

check in/out at that hotel. Check in/out for the Lakeside Lodge, Junaluska Apts., Mountainview Lodge or Sunnyside Lodge will be in the building which houses Jones Cafeteria. There will be an information booth set up at Harrell Center for any questions you might have. **Housing request forms** were sent to each district president. The forms were to be returned in February. If you have not requested housing, please do so right away. Available space on the assembly grounds fills up very quickly, especially for the Friday/Saturday session. If lodging is not available on the assembly grounds, you will be advised of other possible accommodations nearby. You may request availability by calling 1-800-222-4930. If you secure lodging off the assembly grounds, you do not have to send in the Reservation Request Form, just make your arrangements with the facility off the grounds and then come register with us at Harrell Center when you arrive at the Lake. **It is very important for you to register at Harrell Center so that we will have a record of your attendance.** If you need child care, you may make arrangements by calling Lake Junaluska at 1-828-452-2881.

The retreats promise to be a time for spiritual growth as we explore the

School of Christian Mission

“Harvesting Peace”

Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina

“July 13-16, 2006”

*Spiritual Growth Study: “Shalom-Salaam-Peace: Peace in the Bible and in Our Time”

*Geographic Study: “India & Pakistan”

*General Issue Study: “Globalization: Its Impact on People’s Lives”

Registration: May 1-June 23, 2006

Registration brochures are available from your District Presidents

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

ANNUAL MEETING

“Rise! Shine! Glorify God”

September 8, 9, & 10, 2006
Lake Junaluska Assembly

Hands-on Mission Project: Gift to Mission Cards

Mark Your Calendar!!!

theme “*Help! My Light is Under A Bushel.*” Please be in prayer for the retreats and our retreat leaders.

Kris Peurifoy, Spiritual Growth
Krispeurifoy@aol.com

RETREAT REGISTRATION

Registration for each retreat will begin at 12:30pm—4:00pm in Harrell Center. An information booth will be set up to assist you.

After you register, please take time to browse in the Program Resources Room downstairs in Harrell Center. Hours of operation for *Program Resources* will be: **Friday: 12:30-3:45pm, and after the last session on Friday. Saturday: 8:00-8:45am, 12:00-3:45pm, 5:30-6:45pm.**

Rooms on the assembly grounds may not be available until 3pm. We share the facilities with others. Check-out time is 11am.

The Memorial Chapel will be open at all times for your personal quiet time. You may place prayer requests in a basket in the Chapel. We will lift up those requests during our retreat sessions.

The Susanna Wesley Gardens, the International Prayer Room, and the Junaluska Cross are other places to visit during free time. You will also want to take a walk by the lake and enjoy the roses. Be sure to dress comfortably, wear good walking shoes, bring a warm sweater and rain gear in case the weather is cool or

rainy.

Emergency Telephone Number

The Assembly’s switchboard number is 828-452-2881. Please leave this number with your family in case of an emergency.

RETREAT LEADER



Veranita Alvord, who was born of missionary parents in Zimbabwe, Africa, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Candler School of Theology

at Emory University. As a former director on the General Board of Global Ministries, she traveled with a team to Cambodia. Veranita was also a study leader for the Western North Carolina School of Christian Mission where she led the geographical study on Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. She is currently serving as Pastor of Hoyle Memorial UMC in Shelby. She is married to Joe Tarpley, pastor of Sharon UMC in Shelby. Joe and Veranita have the joy and privilege of raising Olivia (8 years old) and Ivan (2 years old). Veranita confesses that while she is exercising, she often dreams not only of a healthy life but of travel to exotic destinations.

MUSIC TEAM

Fernando and Tiffany Little have been working together in the music ministry for eleven years. They believe in honoring God’s purpose for

their musical talents by spreading the Gospel through song. Tiffany and Fernando are married and reside in Charlotte, NC. They have one son, Camren.

Song Leader: The daughter of a Baptist minister, *Tiffany Little* began singing in her father’s church at a very early age. Born into a musical family, she was often called upon, along with her brother and four sisters, to render musical concerts. Her musical accomplishments include being the choir director from 1994-1998 at Boone Mennonite Brethren Church in Boone, NC. While at Appalachian State University she served as the student director for the Gospel Choir and the president of the Treble Choir. She also was cast in the lead role for the gospel musical “Tell Heaven I’m Coming.” She provided lead vocals in the first CD recording of the Gospel Choir, served as director and adjunct professor and graduated from Appalachian State University School of Music in 1998 with a minor in vocal performance. Currently she is at St. Mark’s UMC where she serves as director of the children’s choir, assistant director of the Inspirational Mass Choir, Praise Team leader and director of Education Ministry.

Organist: Fernando G. Little began playing the piano at the age of 3 and by the age of 9 was playing for worship services at St. Mark’s UMC in Charlotte. While in Boone he served as music director at Boone Mennonite Brethren Church. His accomplish-

ments at Appalachian State University School of Music include student director of the Gospel Choir, principal keyboardist in the first CD recording of the choir, accompanist, director and adjunct professor at the school. Fernando also served as music director of the SEJ BMCR Harambee Youth Conference from 2001-2004. He is currently at St. Mark's where he is the Minister of Music and Arts and serves as the Charlotte District Director of Worship and Music.

Tiffany and Fernando have led choir tours and music workshops across the southeastern United States. In 2003-2004 she served as Song Leader and he as Director of Music at Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska. They particularly enjoy bringing together voices from all denominations and backgrounds to sing God's praises. They consider it a blessing to serve God together in a musical capacity!

A retreat is a time to reflect upon your relationship with God. It is a time to be attentive as God speaks to us. The committee has worked hard to plan an inspirational retreat. We anticipate a wonderful time together. We hope you will meet us by the lake in June.

RETREAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS are Kris Peurifoy, chair; Amy Johnson, Sandy Hieronymus, Sharon Smith, Sherry Sink, Linda Young, Linda Baity, Bettie Sharpe Rowe, Rev. Mark Barden, Vernie Hollifield, Pat Gilbert.

Directions To Lake Junaluska

From the East: Travel west on I-40 to Exit 27, US-23/US-74. Go 1.5 miles. Bear right on US-19/US-23/US-74 and go 2.5 miles. Continue on ramp at sign reading "US-19 to Maggie/Cherokee/Junaluska Assembly" and go for 0.2 miles. Bear right on US-19 and watch for the signs.

From the West: Travel east on US-19 and watch for the signs.

From the Southwest: Travel northeast on US-23/US-441. Turn right on ramp at sign reading "US-76 East/US-23 North to Waynesville/Asheville." Go 20 miles. Exit 102B,

sign reads "US-276 North to Maggie Valley/Junaluska Assembly." Turn right on US-276, Dellwood Ave. and go north 1.4 miles. Turn right on US-19 and watch for the signs. Upon your arrival at the retreat center, remember to look for the yellow signs.

President-Amy Johnson

The first phrase of our Purpose states: ***The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God...***

Have you ever thought about the meaning of "to know God"? He knows all about us and, yes, we know who God is; but do we really **know** God? The Psalms instruct us to "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalms 46:10). With the busy lives we lead today, it's not easy to take a few minutes for ourselves, much less block out time to spend with God.

A United Methodist Church in my community has had this slogan on their church sign: "***A daily walk with God requires more than weekly visits.***" How true! I have developed a habit of getting up early each morning and beginning my day by spending some quiet time reading my Bible and a devotional book, conversing with God in prayer, and journaling. When something happens to disrupt my quiet time (such as the volunteer fire department receiving a call and my husband dashing out of the house to respond to the call), my day turns out to be more chaotic and stressful than those days when I have uninterrupted time with God.

I like the writing of Elizabeth Canham, in **A Table of Delight**:

Be still, and know that I am God.

Be still, and know that I am.

Be still, and know.

Be still.

Be --

The Spiritual Growth Retreats are a wonderful opportunity to get away for a few days, enjoy the beauty of God's creation at Lake Junaluska, and to spend quality time in developing your relationship with God. I have always received a blessing from attending the

retreats. Of course, some years I'm blessed more than others! But I always bring a new awareness home with me.

Last year's retreat was no exception. I had been struggling with a situation for two years. I had prayed for God's guidance, but I had not received an answer. The week before the 2005 retreat, I heard that still, small voice; the answer I had been seeking had finally arrived. It would require a major change in my life, a change that would affect my whole family. I went to the 2005 retreats, still pondering if "***the answer***" was really what I needed to do. As I sat among the congregation, it seemed that Jane Rubietta, the retreat leader, was speaking only to me. Everything she said confirmed that "***the answer***" I had received from God was indeed what I needed to do. I returned home and followed God's direction, and I received peace and joy in my life.

The Spiritual Growth Committee has planned for a year to present a retreat that will truly bless you and help you to grow in your walk with God. Come, expecting to receive a blessing. Come, with open minds and hearts, ready to receive all that awaits you. Come, ready to throw off the bushel basket that has been keeping your light from shining brightly. I look forward to greeting you in June at Lake Junaluska.

jdeere620@aol.com

Vice President-Sandy Hieronymus

Many lasting friendships are made through participation in UMW events. Summer is always an exciting time to renew friendships with others throughout our conference. It is not too early to make plans to attend the three conference events – the Spiritual Growth Retreat, the School of Christian Mission, and Conference Annual Meeting. Each district also has meaningful events where you can get to know others in your district. I always look forward to being with fellow UMW members. It is a great group of

dedicated folks.

Go to our conference website at www.gbgm-umc.org/wncumw to get information and registration forms for these events or contact your District President.

Are you looking for a good program? Go to any issue of *Response* for 48 pages of interesting information. Each issue contains a Bible study and articles about mission areas we support. Please note that this magazine is now \$18 per year (\$34 for two years). To subscribe to *Response* and *New World Outlook*, call 877-881-2385 or mail subscriptions to Magazines with a Mission, PO Box 395, Congers, NY 10920-0395. Do not order these from Service Center.

Rise! Shine! Glorify God! is our 2006 theme for our Conference Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska on September 8, 9 & 10. This will be a celebration of who we are as we work with God and glorify Him through United Methodist Women. Rev. Beth Crissman will be our keynote speaker and Rev. Keith Turman will be our mission speaker on Saturday morning.

The Northeast District will be our hostess district. You may come for just a day or the entire weekend. Just come and bring someone with you!

sandyh46aol.com

Education & Interpretation
Sherry Sink

On the front of our Gift to Mission card titled "Thank You," we have the design of a moon shell taken from Anne Morrow Lindbergh's book Gift From the Sea. Anne places a moon shell on her desk after returning home from her time spent on a beach during her vacation. The moon shell with its smooth circles winding inward to the core is to remind her of solitude. Anne speaks to the problem of women needing to have a time of solitude and renewal for themselves.

The WNC United Methodist Women clearly understand this problem and so that is why we offer a Spiritual Growth Retreat every year.

Everything you need to know is in

the front part of this Conference Gram or on our website. When you and your friends attend this retreat you will have taken care of Mission Today criteria #18-At least two members (one member for units less than 15 members), other than a district or conference officer, will attend a district Prayer Breakfast, district Day Apart, or conference Spiritual Growth Retreat.

Hope you have your year planned out so that your unit becomes a Mission Today Unit for 2006. Plan on using your *Prayer Calendar*, *Program Book* and *Response Magazine* to help educate units about how, where, when and why we are in mission around the world. Make plans for road trips to the Spiritual Growth Retreats, School of Christian Mission, and Annual Meeting. Keep these Conference Goals in front of you and plan accordingly to accomplish these goals: Financial Goal- #1-To encourage each local unit to increase their Pledge to Mission by \$1/member, i.e., a local unit with 10 members would increase their Pledge to Mission by \$10 over 2005 pledge. Membership Goal- #2-Encourage each local unit to add at least 1 new member. One strategy is to have a membership emphasis at each district event. Mission Today Goal-#3- Increase the number of Mission Today local units by 2% over 2005. If you need any assistance on Mission Today criteria or conference events, feel free to contact me.


Anne Morrow Lindbergh concludes the moon shell chapter by saying that "a woman must take time some time for herself...not only for her own salvation, but for the salvation of family life, of society, perhaps even of civilization."

See you at the Lake!!!!

Sherika12754@aol.com

UMW 2006 Assembly
May 4-7, 2006
Anaheim CA

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.

Hands-on
Mission Opportunity
for the
School of Christian Mission

Health Kits for UMCOR

UMCOR has expressed an urgent need for Health Kits. Health Kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster.

Please involve your whole church in this Hands-on Mission Project. More information to come in the next Conference Gram.

Remember YOU make mission possible!!!

Treasurer-Sharon Smith

For the **FIFTH** consecutive year, the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women led the nation in:

- Special Mission Recognition
- Gift to Mission
- Gift in Memory
- World Thank Offering
- Total Undesignated Giving and

TOTAL GIVING !

We were 3rd in Pledge to Mission and 2nd in Call to Prayer and Self Denial. WNCC was only one of nine conferences that increased their undesignated giving in 2005. All other conferences experienced decreases in their giving. Undesignated Giving (nation-wide) was down from 2004 to 2005 by over \$1,000,000.

Facts about **Undesignated Giving:**

- Undesignated Giving makes mission possible by supporting mission projects and personnel around the world. The need for undesignated mission funds is greater than ever. The 2006 Women's Division Budget Appropriations for Undesignated Giving totals \$18,333,205.
- In 2006, it will take 58 cents of Undesignated Giving to fund that budget for just one second. A \$5 Gift to Mission or Gift in Memory will fund almost nine seconds, a \$15 World Thank Offering will support 26 seconds, and a \$35 Special Mission Recognition Pin will support one minute. How many seconds or minutes of mission will you and your local unit make possible in 2006?
- Our **2006 Financial Goal** is to challenge each UMW Unit to increase their pledge by at least \$1 per member. If this financial goal is reached, the extra money would fund almost 18 hours of mission work. You may have already made your pledge for 2006, but you can always overpay your pledge.

The **2006 Love Offering** will be an Undesignated Gift to Mission **"Celebrating the Diversity and Gifts of Young Women."** Bring your unit's Love Offering to Annual Meeting or mail it in to me.

It is in telling the stories of mission

that we pass on to others how important Undesignated Giving is to women, children and youth around the world.

kitty5255@yahoo.com

Program Resources
Bettie Sharpe Rowe

WOW! That's the reaction to the response to our Children's Reading Program which began in 2005. At the end of 2005 we had 192 children who participated in the Children's Reading Program! I know with your help in encouraging the children in your life to read, we can exceed that number. It's early in the year and children are fast readers, so Get Set, Get Ready.....Start them reading! 2006 books are as follows: *The Goat Lady* (#1952), *My Name is Yoon* (#1923), *Say Something* (#1953), *Welcome, Brown Bird* (#1913), *The Carpet Boy's Gift* (#1951), *Am I Praying?* (#1907) *God Gave Me* (#1937) *You Wouldn't Love Me If You Knew* (#1933) The Children's Study is *Children of Biblical Lands* (#3679). You may also select books from the 2000-2006 list. Let me know as soon as these children have read 5 books or had 5 books read to them and I'll issue certificates. I would like to hear from accounts and have photos of children receiving certificates.

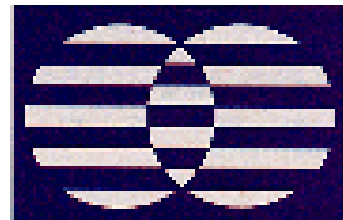
We United Methodist Women are so fortunate to have the abundance of resources available to us. Enter the pages of the catalog to see the many free resources. Reading Program books are listed, of course, as well as resources for membership and programming. You may order from Service Center by phone at 1-800-305-9857 or by email from SCorders@gbgm-umc.org. Your district event will give you access to many resources that you may see firsthand. Pick up the Reading Program booklet, which is free, for valuable information on ways to implement the program in your unit. On page 1, you will find information to recommend a book for the reading list. Start the Reading Program ball

rolling in your unit by asking, "Are you reading on the United Methodist Women's Reading Program?" If they are not, lend them one of your books and start a "trading system" in your local unit. I guarantee, this is a fever you'll want to catch! We have so many books for all of your reading needs...I have read from this years list, *When My Name was Keoko*, *Ashes Transformed*, *The Betrayal of Work*, *Blood Done Sign My Name* and am now reading *Beyond Greens and Cornbread*. Don't forget the Bonus Books, one of which is *My Indian Jatra*, by Frances Major of Brooks Howell.

Remember also, regular reading of *Response* and *New World Outlook* is important as well as informative to issues crucial to all United Methodist Women as we desire to continually be aware of needs of women, children and youth around the world.

I also hope you'll be able to attend one of the Spiritual Growth Retreats. Come early, visit and browse all the resources in the Program Resources area. There'll be plenty of time to shop. I know you'll want to increase your supply of Reading Program Books and of course don't forget the books for the Children's Reading Program. We will have an abundant selection. Let me know if I can help you.

cnbsrowe@northstate.net



If you want to know where your money goes, all you have to do is read *RESPONSE* Magazine. Watch for this symbol of interlocking circles. You will be reading about a program and/or person supported by Undesignated Giving.

Committee on Nominations Chair
Irma Ellwanger

Nominating Committees should be prepared to give job descriptions of offices to be filled, looking and listening for potential leaders, working together as a team to secure the best possible candidates for each position to be filled. It is extremely important to fill the positions with persons whose gifts and talents can be utilized to the fullest to make the officer team the best it can be. I hope that all nominating committees, both local and district, are hard at work now to find persons who are best suited to lead for 2007 and beyond. You, as a member of the Nominating Committee, have a tremendous responsibility to find the best person for the job. It is certainly not too early to begin now.

IrmaEll@aol.com

Social Action-Linda Young

Recently, I read that the Lenten season is a time of sacrifice and discipline. Following Jesus' example of 40 days in the wilderness, Christians give up something for Lent. For some, it's chocolate, television, coffee, while others adopt a discipline of daily Bible reading or prayer. But the wilderness experience of Jesus is about more than sacrifice or discipline. Jesus refused the devil's temptations and remained focused on His purpose and mission. As United Methodist Women, this message is a reminder for us to stay focused on our PURPOSE and the church's mission.

I attended the Women's Division Washington Office of Public Policy Legislative Event on March 10-13, 2006. We met at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill. This is the only non-governmental building on "the Hill." It is owned by The United Methodist Church and houses the Washington office of the General Board of Church and Society, the international public witness and social action agency of The United Methodist Church. Social Action coordinators from every conference were involved in the discussion on immigration is-

ues. People are on the move. The economic forces of globalization combined with political and social conflict are forcing many to leave their homes to face racism, xenophobia (hatred of foreigners), and economic uncertainty in search of ways to build a better future for themselves and their families in a different country. There are 31 million immigrants in the United States (plus an estimated 11 million undocumented). Communities are shaken up and tensions are present.

Bring your district and local units together to discern how God would have you address the challenges that lie ahead. Visit the National Immigration Law Center web site (www.nilc.org) and also the National Immigration Forum-www.immigrationforum.org. These and several other sites will provide fact sheets, policy updates and background articles on immigration. United Methodist Committee on Relief has a new brochure, JFON (Justice For Our Neighbor) as a response to the immigration needs of the sojourners in our midst. Check out every phase of the media for information that will educate ourselves on the issue. As United Methodist Women, we can make a difference for "the least of these."

While in Washington, we also took part in the Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2006. Over nine hundred concern advocates from churches and communities throughout the country attended the Global Peace with Justice Conference. The 2006 theme was "Challenging Disparity: The Promise of God, the Power of Solidarity." We were deeply concerned by the increasing economic disparity and poverty in our midst. Wages should allow workers and their families to live in dignity and meet their basic needs. We asked our legislators to raise the minimum wage over three years to \$7.25 an hour.

The United Methodist Women's Action Network is an excellent resource to respond to public policy issues. The Action Alerts provides information and prepare you to act on public policy issues more effectively. A registration form should have been included in every district newsletter. Please join the Network. According to The Women's Division report, there are only 556 Net-

work members in the state of North Carolina. Each Social Action coordinator was asked to increase the Network membership by 25 members per district. You can be an effective advocate.

Remember, our lawmaker's votes are influenced by their personal views, their party's positions, the advice of staff and friends, and lobbyists. But the single most important influence is constituent opinion. Members of Congress rely on the letters, phone calls, e-mails, faxes and visits they receive to gauge how the voters in their district are thinking. It's a basic political rule: no Congressperson wants to write back thousands of constituents saying that he/she doesn't agree with them. Let Washington hear you roar!!!

lmyou2253@aol.com

**Dedication of the
Annual Report Book**

If you know of a United Methodist Woman that has served on the local, district and conference levels of UMW, you could nominate them for the dedication of the Annual Report Book. This person will be honored at our UMW annual meeting in September. Remember that they must have served on all three levels of United Methodist Women. Forms for nominations must be filled out and received by June 1, 2006. You can request forms by calling or emailing **Sherry Sink** at:

336-882-1736 or 336-880-2663
or email
sherika12754@aol.com

**Wanted All
District Officers
to attend....**

District Officers Training

When:

Saturday, October 14, 2006

Where:

First UMC in Gastonia

All district officers should
mark your calendars now
and plan to attend!!!

Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Linda Baity

Why Join UMW-What's in it for me?

As we continue to be challenged with membership and leadership in United Methodist Women, we praise God for the commitment and dedication of those who have chosen to belong and made the commitment to serve!

When a very special group (YOUR conference officers) were asked to complete this statement "Membership in United Methodist Women is....." and suggestions for something "catchy" that might describe membership in UMW. The following is what I have received so far:

**"United Methodist Women-
connecting sisters in Christ to
Christ." *Bettie Rowe***

**"Be a witness where you are and
send a witness where you are
not." *Linda Young***

Even though Linda heard this several years ago she states " That line has meant so much to me. It fulfills our Purpose. The witness we send is our dollars, missionaries, and deaconesses. We know our dollars start in a local unit and end up in every corner of the globe."

**"...an opportunity to have a closer
walk with the Lord through spiritual
growth events."**

"..an opportunity to nurture friendships with other UMW sisters."

"..an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child by providing quality day care through our Bethlehem Centers." *Amy Johnson*

"..seeing one's faith grow"

"..an opportunity to grab the hand of God and hang on!"

"allowing ourselves to be all that we can be"

"an opportunity to free ourselves as we free others or to feed ourselves as we feed others." *Kris Peurifoy*

"..means a chance to visit with friends from other districts where we have lived, it is like heaven to see friends when the Conference Events take place."

"..means you have a support system to help you face life's challenges."

"..means you can learn more about God and God's people the world over." *Dot Alvord*

"..an opportunity to serve, to share, and to be loved."

"..an opportunity to expand one's horizons through education, travel and service."

" Membership in UMW rocks!" *Ann Aldridge*

"..gives us the opportunity to be the hands of God." *Vernie Hollifield*

"..an outstretched hand, welcoming you to the circle!"

"..an open invitation to you to join the circle!" *Vicki Walker*

"..is my framework for an abundant life." *Dixie Liggett*

I will continue to receive and share ideas of what membership in United Methodist Women means. You may use these in any way that is helpful to recruit members. Why would anyone want to belong to any other organization?!!!

lindabaity@wnireland.com

Historian-Margie Knight

Did you know that the first pledge to missions of the conference was \$57,800.00 in 1942? The Western North Carolina Conference led all conferences in Methodism in the number of mission study classes held. There were 1,170 classes with 22,000 members that year. The Love Offering was added to conference giving in 1944.

Share " a moment of history" with your districts and units. Be sure to include pictures with information on the back about your events. Please support your conference, district and local unit leaders and events with your prayers and presence.

eknight@netpath-rc.net

**Please keep these conference events
in your prayers!**

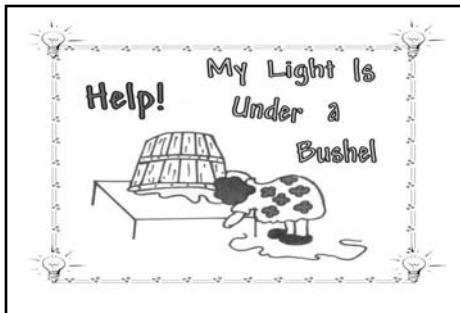


**School of Christian Mission
July 13-16, 2006
at Greensboro College**



**Conference Annual Meeting
September 8-10, 2006
at Lake Junaluska**

CONFERENCE GRAM
The official newsletter of the
WNC Conference United Methodist Women
 Karen Wilkerson, 2829 17th Avenue SE, Newton, NC 28658



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR WNC CONFERENCE
 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2006**

May 4-7 UMW Assembly 2006, Anaheim, CA
 June 8-11 UMC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
 June 16-17/17-18 Spiritual Growth Retreats, Lake Junaluska
 July 13-16 WNCC UMW School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College
 September 8-10 WNCC UMW Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska
 October 14 WNCC UMW Officer Training for District Officers

Web Site Address: www.gb-gm-umc.org/wncumw—Lynne Gilbert maintains the web site. You are invited to send her articles and photos for the web site.

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