

Conference Gram



Volume 54, Number 1

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

February, 2005

President's Message

Greetings and Happy New Year to each of you! God has blessed us with another year of opportunities to serve Him as we fulfill our responsibilities in UMW.

To those who may be new in your office, **WELCOME ABOARD!!!** To those who are continuing, **THANK YOU** for continuing on this journey with us. I count it a special blessing to have the privilege of serving with each one of you!

This issue of the *Conference Gram* will tell you that 2004 was another good year financially for our Conference. **THANK YOU** to every member in every local unit for your part in making this happen. Your \$\$\$ continue our legacy of making a tremendous difference in the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

It is always wonderful to have additions to our UMW family. New units have been chartered at Laurel Hill in the Asheville District, and at Warrensville and Hanes Grove in the North Wilkesboro District. Another unit, Kingswood in the Winston-Salem District, was re-chartered. It is always a time of much excitement and special joy to experience the enthusiasm of these members as they begin (and start again) their journey of serving in UMW. **WELCOME** to each member of these units. We look forward to working with you as we all strive to live out our UMW PURPOSE.

Exciting plans are being made for our conference events for 2005 and the information is contained in this issue. Put these dates on your calendar and make your plans to be present. It was a great joy to see so many of you at our 2004 events, and we are looking forward to seeing you again in 2005. Come and bring someone new with you!

As always, please remember that

conference and district officers are only a phone call or email away. We love to hear from you, and will visit your local unit meeting every time you afford us the opportunity. Remember to ask your district team for a LUV visit! Their visit means you will meet one of the Criteria for being a MISSION TODAY unit!

I just must include a personal word here. Your outpouring of love and concern during my total knee replacement surgery and recuperation has been overwhelming. Each email, phone call and card was very much appreciated as was each signature on every card that came from circles/groups/units. It is WONDERFUL to be walking again! Therapy three days a week is not my favorite thing to do but I realize that is a "must do" right now. I continue to say there is no supportive community in this world like UMW. You have proven that to me again and I truly and sincerely thank each one of you for your prayers and support.

Mary Kizer,
President

Vice President's Message

As we begin a new year, we have new opportunities to live out our faith, and to serve God through United Methodist Women. It is a great time to reflect, both as local units, and as individuals, on the ways that we are involved in fulfilling our PURPOSE. Have you made your program plans for the new year? Good program planning is so important! It is the way we tell the story of the total program of mission that is United Methodist Women.

Some of the resources that you will definitely want to use in your program planning include the *2005 Program Book—Our World Through Prayer* (Stock #3615, \$3.75, available from the Service Center at 1-

800-305-9857), the *2005 Prayer Calendar* (Stock #3490, \$8.50), *Response Magazine* (\$15.00/year, Subscriptions Toll-free number: 1-877-881-2385), *A Guide to Program Planning for United Methodist Women* (Stock #3489, \$2.50), and the new *Handbook for United Methodist Women 2005-2008: Focus on Local and District Units* (Stock #2894, \$5.00).

Our website also has 2005 conference event information, resources on Mission Today, district calendars, links to resources on the Women's Division website, lots of information available for download...and more.

Our web address is:

www.gbgm-umc.org/wncumw

Check it out! And, our conference email list is another way that you can receive conference information, the *Conference Gram*, and other UMW updates. Join today by sending or emailing me your name, email address, and district!

I hope you will plan to attend our 2005 Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska, September 9, 10, & 11. Mark these dates on your calendar, and plan to bring a friend! Invite someone from your local unit who has never been before! Our theme for 2005 will be *A Portrait For The Future*. Your program committee is already at work planning an inspirational, educational, and exciting event. Be there!

Lynne Gilbert,
Vice-President

2006 UMW Assembly

May 4-7, 2006
Anaheim, California

Mark this date on your
calendar!!!
More info inside!!

School of Christian Mission

“Cornerstones of Hope”

Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina
July 21-24, 2005

*Spiritual Growth Study: “Children of the Bible”

*Geographic Study: “India - Pakistan”

*General Issue Study: “Public Education”

Registration period: May 1- June 30, 2005

Registration brochures are available from your District President
and on our website.

Spiritual Growth Retreats

“The Music Within”

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina
June 17-18, 18-19, 2005

1st session: 3:45pm, 2nd session: 7:15pm,
3rd session: 9:00am, 4th session: 10:30am

Retreat Leader: Jane Rubietta

Music Team:

Catherine Guess, Patricia Townsend

Housing reservation forms are available from your District President
and on our website.

Secretary of Program Resources

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Program Resources!! As Secretary of Program Resources, there are many things you can do to help the women become familiar with all the valuable resources available.

The exciting news I have to share with you should have already been in your district newsletter, but just let me tell you all about it.

Children’s Reading Program!

Yes, you have read and heard correctly. We want our children to be involved in the world of reading books that United Methodist Women have to offer in their area. I know how pleased you women are to receive a certificate for reading. Just imagine the excitement the children will feel receiving a certificate like their mom. Since our program is just beginning, I would welcome your comments and suggestions once you begin this in your unit. District Presidents as well as District Secretaries of Program Resources have this information. Check out our web page (www.gbmg-umc.org/wncumw) where you will also find complete information about this new program. So, get ready, get set and encourage the children to participate.

While the children are participating, remember you set a good example by letting them see you read. We have so many stimulating books on the list, sometimes it’s hard to decide which to read first; maybe read two at the time! The Reading Program List for 2005 can be found on the Women’s Division web page. If you haven’t be-

gun to read from the United Methodist Women’s Reading List, begin reading soon and encourage others. Reading only one book from each category, plus *Response*, will qualify you to receive a certificate AND will satisfy one of the *Mission Today* criteria.

Now you can order resources online from Service Center and receive confirmation of your order. That email address is Scorders@gbgm-umc.org. Five year pocket calendars, *Prayer Calendars* (you may want to include your minister and local church mission coordinator as recipients) are available now, as well as new organizational materials. If you are a new SPR, be sure your name has been submitted to Service Center to receive mailings.

Bettie Sharpe Rowe,
Secretary of Program Resources

Historian

What do we *preserve*? In our own lives, we save the things we think are worth keeping. Ever so often we go through the whole closet, pull out the clothes we haven’t worn in a while, keep some and pass some on to others who have a better use for them.

What do we *share*? We share our heritage of mission to women, children and youth.

What do we *celebrate*? We celebrate the gifts the Lord has given us—the gifts of a creative, supportive fellowship. Preserving, sharing, celebrating -- these are things we accomplish as we fulfill our position as historians for the United Methodist

Women in our districts and in our conference. (adapted from The Moravian, *Preserve, Share, and Celebrate* October 2004) *Our identity is dependent on having a story that tells us who we are.* (John Westerhoff)

As we begin another year of documenting the history of UMW throughout Western North Carolina, we must remember that it is important to make sure that years from now, there was no doubt that we knew our identity as women in mission.

Preserve the history of your district, share a “moment of history” with your mission team at executive meetings, and support your local, district and conference leaders and events with your prayers and your presence.

Barbara H. Stoker,
Historian

Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

A new year, a new face and a new beginning. This year begins a new journey for me, Sherry Sink, your new Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation. I begin the journey willingly — I am anxious...apprehensive...but excited. So, let the journey begin!!

A new year brings new conference goals: 1) Challenge each member to increase her Pledge to Mission by at least \$1.00. 2) Increase the number of “Mission Today” local units by 5%. 3) Increase the awareness of Social Action as Mission. Let’s look at goal number two. I know that we can increase the number of Mission

Today units by 5%, but we must start today! We now have a list of 20 different criteria for becoming a Mission Today unit. You only have to meet 8 of the 20 listed. (4 have to be ones with asterisks). As you review your list, I am sure you will see that you are already doing many of them. Some examples are: Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children, and youth (*); Members will correspond with five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least once a year; and the unit will **make and meet its pledge to mission.** (*) Two of those have asterisks.

A number of districts will have district mission studies in the next few months. If you attend, you are fulfilling #7-The unit or circle will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year.(*). Attending the Spiritual Growth Retreat, Annual Meeting and the School of Christian Mission will fulfill 3 different criteria. At the School of Christian Mission, July 21-24 at Greensboro College, we are asking that you make Health Kits to bring as our Hands On Mission Opportunity. You may open this opportunity up to your whole congregation and bring them with you. This also completes criteria #12—the unit or circle will select a project from the Women Division’s Material Resource Catalog and will contribute the needed resources to the mission project.

Gift to Mission Cards will be the Hands on Mission Opportunity at Annual Meeting. By giving a Gift To Mission Card, your unit gives in one of the Five Channels of Undesignated Giving. Only four more to go.

If your unit or circle has been doing the criteria I have listed, keep challenging your group and tackle some you haven’t done before. Invite women young and old to come and take part in your programs and mission opportunities. Who knows, you may have to form a new circle of teens, or young women, or add two new members to your unit. (That would be completing more of the Mission Today criteria.)

As we work together to become Mission Today Units, we find ourselves creating circles of new friends and serving beside old ones, learning new stories to tell and retelling the old ones, being there for those in need and finding others there with us in our time of need. We find we have made our *Purpose* come alive by developing a Creative, Supportive Fellowship which is our conference emphasis for 2005.

If you have any questions about Mission Today criteria or anything I can help you with, contact me or your district coordinator. (If either one of us attends one of your meetings, we are taking care of another Mission Today criteria)! Let our journey begin!

Sherry Sink,
Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Secretaries

As you begin a new year, whether you are returning or a new secretary, I encourage you to review your handbooks in order to know your duties and to be able to help others in your district and local unit understand how and why we are in mission. All of you have the opportunity to be a well informed secretary this year, and this will be a big help to your Executive Committee. There is a world of information in the handbooks, the Conference UMW website, the *Conference Gram*, and the conference email list. If you are not yet taking advantage of these resources, I hope you will do so this year.

Local units who have a new President and/or Secretary of Program Resources need to send their names to the Service Center along with the names of the persons they are replacing. The address is 7820 Reading Road, Caller No. 1800, Cincinnati, Ohio 45222-1800. This is very important as the Service Center sends occasional mailings to them. I hope to see all of you at our 2005 Conference events. Come and bring a friend.

Carolyn Kiker,
Secretary

Leader Development

Greetings to the Western North Carolina Conference UMW!! What a year of celebrating we had in 2004!

Now 2005 has come and plans for conference events are already underway. District Officers, as you plan your calendar, be sure to mark Saturday, October 1 for District Officer Training. Broad Street UMC in Statesville is the location.

Your “LUV” visits, Local Unit Visitation, to the local units continue to spread the news of United Methodist Women. It is a wonderful time when United Methodist Women meet and greet one another. During your visit, be sure to lift up program resources, district and conference events, and communicate your support of their unit. Great things happen when United Methodist Women are together!!!!

Virginia Robinson,
Chairperson of Leader Development

United Methodist Women

ASSEMBLY 2006

Anaheim, California

May 4 - 7, 2006



California...
Here We Come!

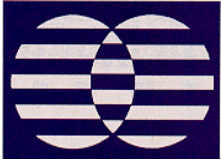
Fly with us to San Francisco on April 28th, step on our chartered bus, see the sights of coastal California, experience Assembly, and return home from Anaheim on May 8th.

Mark your calendar and plan to go with us!

Watch for specific information to be provided at Spring district events, the Spiritual Growth Retreats, and on our website: www.gbgn-umc.org/wncumw



Start saving your money... an initial deposit will be required by July 11, 2005



**Thank You!!
Every Mission
Dollar Makes a
Difference!!!**

Just as the women mentioned in Luke 8:1-3 helped to support Jesus in his ministry, the United Methodist Women of the Western North Carolina Conference continue to honor Jesus Christ through their support of ministries to women, children, and youth throughout the world. **In 2004, undesignated giving from the local units, including the 135th anniversary offering, totaled \$953,685, an INCREASE of over \$500. Total giving again went over the one million dollar mark - \$1,085,228.35, an INCREASE of \$3,334 over 2003.**

In 2004, we again gave more than our Pledge to Mission! **Our Conference sent \$825,890.94 in Undesignated gifts to Women's Division, overpaying our pledge by \$890.** Included in this amount was \$25,890.94 given for the 135th Anniversary Offering. Our Designated gifts totaled \$113,532. The **Conference Love Offering was \$37,083.16**, again the largest ever received. We also gave \$18,010 to other projects, including \$3,742 of contributions to the WNCC UMW General Scholarship Fund.

We also reached our 2004 Conference Financial Goal of increasing giving in the Special Mission Recognition channel by 10%. We increased our giving in this channel by \$6,650, a 13% increase over 2003.

With each new year come new challenges and the need for undesignated funds is greater than ever. Our **2005 Conference Financial Goal** is to challenge each member to increase her Pledge to Mission by at least one dollar. If this goal is achieved, we will have an additional \$39,000 for undesignated giving.

The **2005 Conference Love Offering** will be an Undesignated Gift to Mission in Honor of Retired and Active Mission Personnel Related to the Western North Carolina Conference. For more information on our retired mission personnel, you will want to read the article in the January/

February 2005 issue of *New World Outlook* about the retired mission personnel who reside at Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville and are still serving with their volunteer activities.

Your monetary gifts will help to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for women, children, and youth by providing food, clothing, health care, education, community centers, missionary support, and funds for many other mission projects. As United Methodist Women, we pledge our prayers, our time, and our gifts as we seek to fulfill our PURPOSE. Thank you for your continued commitment to mission. **YOUR GIFTS make mission possible throughout the world!**

Amy Johnson,
Treasurer

Committee on Nominations

Last year we celebrated 135 years of United Methodist Women. This is quite an accomplishment for our organization. As a member of the Committee on Nominations you have a great responsibility as we would not have celebrated 135 years unless women with a commitment to our PURPOSE and good leadership skills had not accepted leadership positions in our organization. The leadership the Committee on Nomination gets shapes the future of a district or the unit in a local church. The success of a district mission team or the local unit rests with those women who have made a commitment to be in leadership.

You should soon be having your first Committee on Nominations meeting to begin the process of seeking potential nominees to fill the open positions in either your district or local unit. As you begin your first meeting, remember to stress Confidentiality. What ever is discussed at the meeting is not discussed outside the meeting. I cannot stress how important this is.

The new 2005-2008 *District Handbook* and *Constitution & Bylaws* are now available. The *District Handbook* has job descriptions for each

district officer, but I urge the Chairs of the Committee on Nominations to ask officers to prepare job descriptions because there are many additional details that someone being asked to accept an officer position should know. If you already have job descriptions, determine the kind of diversity needed and match offices with prospective candidates who possess the appropriate qualifications. Information regarding the Committee on Nominations can be found beginning on page 23 in the *Constitution and Bylaws*.

Be sure Profile sheets are included in the District newsletters. Members of the Committee on Nominations should always carry Profile sheets to meetings held in the district as you must constantly be looking for potential leadership for your district—persons who can work as a team and who have leadership qualities and skills. Finding leaders is a year-round task. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Brenda Alexander, Chairperson,
Committee on Nominations

The *Conference Gram* is published four times per year by the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women. It is mailed, free of charge, to all district and conference officers, and to local unit presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and circle chairs. If you hold one of these offices and have not received your copy, please send your name, address, local unit name, office, and district name to Karen Wilkerson, WNCC UMW Communications Coordinator, 2829 17th Avenue SE, Newton, NC 28658. Any other persons may use the subscription form on page 7. You may also receive the *Conference Gram* via email. See the information on page 8 regarding our conference email list.

Also, send any articles and/or photographs of events/happenings in the local units and/or on the district level for the *NC Christian Advocate*, to Karen Wilkerson.

Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator

WELCOME to all of you who have agreed to accept the office of Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth. As spiritual growth coordinators we are responsible for helping our local and district units of United Methodist Women to appreciate the *biblical and theological basis* for our ministries with children and youth. John Wesley stated "There is no religion but social religion, no holiness but social holiness." We therefore provide opportunities for women to realize personal growth and spiritual renewal so that they are better equipped to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Prayer is an important part of our spirituality for it is a time that we set aside to communicate with God. The Program Book for 2005 is entitled *Our World Through Prayer* and is a *wonderful* resource for you and your unit. The world and prayer go together and, as our world continues to shrink, it is even more important that the outreach of United Methodist Women with women and children throughout the world continues. Encourage the women to spend some time each day in prayer. Remember to have the *Prayer Calendar* read at each of your unit and circle meetings. The missionaries and institutions mentioned in the *Prayer Calendar* need our support not only monetarily but also through prayer. In lifting up those in the *Prayer Calendar*, you are also fulfilling requirement #1 for Mission Today.

This is the time of year that we are to promote the *Call to Prayer and Self-Denial* service in our districts and in our local units. The theme for 2005 is *Women Seeking Justice in the Workplace* and the Quiet Day Service, *Disparity and Discipleship* is in the *2005 Program Book* on page 69. The offering given at this service will go to support those programs and projects both in the US and abroad which develop strategies for addressing wage discrimination, including the issues of pay equity and access to healthcare. When you have this service in your unit, you have completed half of the #4 requirement for Mis-

sion Today. If you have a Secretary of Program Resources in your unit, she should have a packet with additional information for 2005.

Plan to attend one of the **Spiritual Growth Retreats at Lake Junaluska** June 17-18/18-19. The theme is "The Music Within" and we are *excited* about our program participants! Jane Rubietta, inspirational speaker and author, will lead the retreats, with Patricia Townsend as our songleader and Catherine Guess as organist. Encourage your ladies to come. Sometimes several churches will get together and come in a bus or van. Advance reservations for lodging on the grounds may be mailed starting Feb. 14th or you may make arrangements at one of the many motels in the surrounding area. If you would like to have a better opportunity of getting the lodging of your choice on the grounds, consider coming to the second retreat, June 18-19. Lines will also be much shorter!

If you ever have questions about your office, please contact your District Spiritual Growth coordinator or you may contact me. We are always glad to help in any way we can.

Kris Peurifoy, Mission Coordinator
for Spiritual Growth

Social Action Mission Coordinator

Greetings!! May the New Year bring you and your loved ones good health, happiness, and peace! Our Conference priorities for 2005 are still 1) Campaign for Children: Phase III 2) Charter for Racial Justice Policies – emphasis on "I Will" 3) Health: Quality Care For All. On January 1, 2006, new Medicare coverage begins, and in May of 2006 the initial open enrollment for Medicare drug coverage ends. There are many concerns regarding the new law relevant to the future of Medicare. The "baby boomer" generation will begin retiring in 2010. By 2050, the number of Americans 65 and older will reach 82 million. Medicare change will effect future generations. If you have questions about the new Medicare law, call the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) @ 1-800-

MEDICARE or visit their website at: www.medicare.gov

Continue to write your Congressional Representatives asking them to cosponsor House Resolution 676 or National Health Insurance Act which would establish the US Health Insurance Program that would provide all individuals residing in the US and its territories with care.

Continue to boycott Taco Bell and put pressure on Yum! Brands. Yum! Brands is the largest fast-food company in the world. They own Pizza Hut, A&W, Long John Silver's & Kentucky Fried Chicken. Imagine picking two tons of tomatoes to make \$50.00. Pray for the farm workers of Taco Bell, and Yum! Brands to end the exploitation of farm workers. Write to the Board of Directors of Yum! Brands, Inc., 1441 Gardiner Lane, Louisville KY 40213.

Continue to support our troops and write prayers for peace post cards. Send them to your Senators and Representatives in Washington, and to President Bush.

Pray for Jubilee and economic justice by "Forgiving of Debt" to the world's population living in poverty. The poorest countries of the world pay more in debt service than they receive in aid. Additionally, they are required to adhere to unfair trade policies that restrict access to food and medicines. Start a letter writing campaign using the article from the January issue of *Response* titled, "Forgiving Debt" as a guide.

"Making All Things New", March 11-14, 2005 in Washington DC, is the 2005 Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice legislative Event. It is supported by the United Methodist Church, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the Women's Division.

You are invited to participate in the Global Media Monitoring Project III (GMMP) which is sponsored by the World Association of Christian Communication. UMW members participated in the 1995 and 2000 GMMP along with 70 other countries. The project monitors the image, role and representation of women in

the media. The day of monitoring is February 16, 2005. Contact me for more information. Please pray for a more just and peaceful world.

Angela White, Mission Coordinator for Social Action

Membership Nurture & Outreach Mission Coordinator

Nurturing, Nurturing, Nurturing....Nurturing is the key and our goal for 2005. We are looking for persons to be mentors. If you are a person who likes to nurture others, here's your opportunity. It only takes an hour of your time for training and a love for nurturing. One hour of training is available from your district or conference membership nurture and outreach coordinator.

Many of us came into United Methodist Women because someone cared enough to nurture us. Think back. Who was the one who mentored and nurtured you? Mentors are persons like you!! They are local women who have a love for UMW and have its PURPOSE written in their heart.

Nurturing is providing an environment of hospitality in which diverse communities of women feel welcome. Each is accepted, energized and encouraged to grow spiritually, to be challenged intellectually, and to be strengthened emotionally. Nurturing is providing hospitality to create a

caring climate of acceptance of individual and unique differences in which each person is encouraged to participate and contribute freely.

As a mentor you will.....Share information and resources.....Be supportive in personal and spiritual growth and crisis situations.....Share opportunities for education and training.....Use leadership skills for studying and advocating ways to put your faith into action.....and, Show appreciation, affirm others and interpret the work of the United Methodist Women.

Who will you mentor? It is really up to you but there is a wide selection of women to mentor, such as teen or college women, young women, new members, long time members, members for whom English is a second language, members of all racial, ethnic and cultural groups, members with special needs...the list goes on and on.

We invite you to be a part of the United Methodist Women program *Nurturing Is*. What a great way to be in mission! Mark Twain said, "I can live for two months on one good compliment!" Let's get started today!!

Polly Pearson, Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach

Scholarship

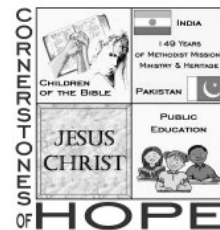
As I begin my new appointed position as chair of Scholarship it is with excitement. My prayer for this year is that as we meet the students, we will be led to make the correct selection, for the building up of God's kingdom. The application deadline for WNCC UMW scholarships is March 1. Contact me for an application. Applicants must be pursuing a church related vocation at one of the five United Methodist colleges and universities in Western North Carolina.

Louise Jones, Scholarship Chairperson

BE IN PRAYER FOR OUR.....



SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREATS



SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The 14 WNCC UMW DISTRICT PRESIDENTS—2005

**Omitted for Web Site Purposes
Email Addresses Available
On Conference Officer Page**

**2005 WNCC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
& COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

**Omitted for Web Site Purposes
Email Addresses Available
On Conference Officer Page**

2004 Conference Gram Subscription

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ District _____

Make \$2.00 check payable to WNCC UMW & mail to: Karen Wilkerson, 2829 17th Ave SE, Newton NC 28658

CONFERENCE GRAM

WNC Conference United Methodist Women
Karen Wilkerson, 2829 17th Avenue SE, Newton NC 28658



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR WNC CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2005

June 9-12 UMC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
June 17-18/18-19 WNCC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreats, Lake Junaluska
July 21-24 WNCC UMW School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College
September 9-11 WNCC UMW Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska
October 1 WNCC UMW Officer Training for District Officers, Broad Street UMC, Statesville

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2006

May 4-7, 2006 UMW Assembly 2006, Anaheim, California

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.gbgm-umc.org/wnccumw

Lynne Gilbert maintains the web site. You are invited to send her articles and photos for the web site.

JOIN OUR CONFERENCE EMAIL LIST: To receive conference event information, updates, the *Conference Gram*, etc: send an email to Lynne Gilbert (lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net) or Carolyn Kiker (kiker2@aol.com), giving your name, email address, and district name. Join Now.

Please send **articles and photos** (of UMW happenings in the Western North Carolina Conference) **for the NC CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE** to: Karen Wilkerson, 2829 17th Ave SE , Newton NC 28658, or e-mail Karen at: kwilkerson@charter.net