

Conference Gram



Volume 59, Number 1

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

February 2010

President - Mildred Carter

I look forward to serving in ministry with each of you as we strive to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women in 2010. Through United Methodist Women (UMW), I have developed many new friendships, grown closer to God, increased my knowledge of missions, and experienced joy in service to our God.

You, in the local units, make Mission Possible through United Methodist Women. The journey of the mission dollar begins with you. When we combine the resources of all of our local units, great things are accomplished as we respond to God's call to take care of the less fortunate (Matthew 25:31-46), especially women, children, and youth.

The Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women finished 2009 with wonderful news of again overpaying our pledge to mission. Thank you for helping to make that happen. Please see Treasurer Julia Willis' article for specific information.

We have many opportunities to grow through United Methodist Women in 2010. Plans are being made for our Spiritual Growth Retreat in June, the School of Christian Mission in July, and Annual Meeting in September. You will find more information on these

events elsewhere in this publication. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

On April 30 through May 2, Western North Carolina UMW will be well represented as we travel to St. Louis, Missouri, to attend our National Assembly which meets every four years. The theme is "Faith.Hope.Love In Action!" What an experience it is to join with several thousand women from around the world as we celebrate the work of United Methodist Women.

On this page, you will see information about contributing to the Haiti Quake Relief. As a building team member several years ago, I saw the faith and commitment of Haitian Christians – even in dire circumstances. We need to help – as we also continue to support the many mission projects and mission personnel that rely on our Mission Giving.

This year, may we renew our commitment to the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. Please let me know if I can be of help to you and your local unit.

mildredcarter@earthlink.net



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Haiti Relief – We Are There

United Methodist Women (UMW) members are praying for the people of Haiti and their families around the world.

We are giving to the Advance #418325 as UMW supplemental giving. We can also designate supplementary giving for our work with grassroots partners like MUDHA (Mujeres Dominico Haitianas). MUDHA will be entering Haiti through the Dominican Republic using grant money from UMW Mission Giving.

We will be at work in Haiti for a long time. UMW Regional Missionary Serna Samuel is in conversation with the Methodist Church of Haiti to assess needs and help to formulate plans for assistance. We support Serna and this work through our Mission Giving.

We are assembling UMCOR health kits. Many more kits are needed -- health kits, layettes, bedding kits, birthing kits (see www.new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies for directions).

We will have a truck at all Conference UMW events this year to collect your kits.

Vice President – Tonya Lanier

What will you do with this year that's new? This is actually a poem written by one of my favorite poets, Helen Steiner Rice. What a great question. What will you do with this year that's new? It is untouched and unscarred, waiting for your special stroke. As your new conference Vice President, I have a few suggestions.

As you begin program planning, keep in mind the wonderful resources available through our Mission Resource Center. The 2010 Program Book – Let's Get Together, the Prayer Calendar and 2009 - 2012 Handbook for United Methodist Women. Make a visit to our website: www.wnccumw.org. There you will find a vast array of UMW events from every level.

Meet me at Lake Junaluska on September 10-12, 2010 for Annual Meeting. This year's theme is: Faith. Hope. Love in Action. The objective of the conference team and others is to bring a little bit of the Assembly back to Western North Carolina. Mark your calendar now and see if you can witness faith, hope, love.....all in action.

Need more ideas? Grab a book from our reading program, register for a district or conference event that you have not attended before, invite someone new to your unit meeting, write a missionary at Brooks Howell or a confined person in your church or community. Actively engage the UMW PURPOSE. How about something in the area of public education?

Now that 2010 is here, what will you do with it? Let God lead you. Let me help you!

tlanier@wcsr.com



**Spiritual Growth Retreat
June 18-19
Lake Junaluska**

**Theme:
Grounded in Love**

Retreat Leader:
Rev. Dawn Hand

Join us for this special time of reflection, prayer, worship, singing, and fellowship.

No advance registration is necessary for attendance. Housing on the Assembly grounds is by advance reservation only.

Leadership Development – Betty Swarthout

LEADERS IN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

- Know and trust God
 - Love Jesus
 - Are servant leaders
 - Are growing and learning in their faith
 - Are good listeners – sensitive and caring
 - Are Trustworthy – accepting persons as they are without judging them
 - Are open to new ideas and other points of view
 - Expect to learn from others
 - Are willing to try new methods – risking failure
- This will continue in the next Conference Gram

2010 DISTRICT OFFICERS TRAINING is on Saturday,

October 9th (9:00 am gathering to 12:30 pm closing) in Marion District at Salem United Methodist Church in Morganton, NC

Keep up the great leadership,
Bj56swarthout@gmail.com

**School of Christian Mission
July 15-18
Greensboro College**



**Theme:
Faith.
Hope.
Love in Action**

Spiritual Growth Study:
For the Love of God: John's Letters

General Issue Study:
Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity

Geographic Study:
The Beauty and Courage of Sudan
Teen Women Event July 17

Advance Registration is required.
Deadline is June 21, 2010

**Annual Meeting
September 10-12
Lake Junaluska**



**Theme:
Faith.
Hope.
Love in Action**

Worship, Fellowship, Excellent Speakers, the Processional of Missionaries, Late Night, Learning Opportunities, Program Resources & Displays, and MORE!

No advance registration is necessary for attendance. Housing on the Assembly grounds is by advance reservation only.

Treasurer – Julia Willis

A New Year and new responsibilities...overwhelming, yet, exciting! Those women Luke wrote about in Chapter 8 long ago must have been excited, too, about the opportunity to 'provide for them out of their means' to support Jesus in his ministry. The United Methodist Women of the WNCC continue that tradition through support of ministries to women, children and youth throughout the world 'out of our means'.

The Year 2009 in Review:

Total Giving from the Districts \$1,071,726.24

Total Mission Giving to Women's Division \$844,618

(exceeding our \$815,000 Pledge to Mission!)

Designated Giving to Women's Division \$107,263.74

(includes Call to Prayer, Nat'l/ Internat'l/UMCOR and \$21,817.33 to other projects that included \$4,845 to WNCC UMW General Scholarship Fund)

Spiritual Growth Love Offering \$5,127.87

School of Christian Mission Love Offering \$1,134

4th Walk to Mission \$5,432.44

Conference Love Offering \$29,858.43

2009 Financial Goal: To increase TOTAL Mission Giving in the Five Channels by 1%; our increase was 2.06%!!!

Each new year has its new challenges. In light of the economic and financial conditions over the past year or so and recent natural disasters, THIS new year's need for undesignated funds is greater than ever. Many worthy projects and programs are competing for funding. Our 2010 Financial Goal is "To Increase the Number of Local Units Giving in All Five Channels of Mission Giving." This is our best means to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for women, children

and youth by providing food, clothing, health care, education, missionary support, and funds for many other mission projects worldwide.

The 2010 Conference Love Offering will be an undesignated Gift to Mission Giving "In Honor of Children Experiencing God's Love in Action." Throughout the year you will hear and see suggestions for putting God's love into action among children in your family, church and community. Our monetary gifts can also allow God's love to be put into action in ways that greatly surpass an individual's effort. YOU make mission possible with your ACTIONS and your monetary GIFTS!

jawillisl@aol.com



Nominations – Janet Turner

The Conference Nominating Committee is looking forward to connecting with each district committee in 2010 at your district executive meetings and at conference events. I want to remind you that we are standing by ready to help and encourage you and with prayers for each of you in your work. A short list of the important reminders in planning your year in nominations is: timelines for elections including terms and tenure; inclusiveness; what to look for in an officer; scouting (Profile sheets) for officers; and confidentiality. Blessings and joy as you serve this important responsibility to United Methodist Women and Our PURPOSE.

janeturner@embarqmail.com

Program Resources – Kim Keyse

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW,
LET IT SNOW
WHILE YOU READ, READ, READ

So, here we are...2010...can you believe it!? And it's an extremely cold 2010!! What better way to thaw out at the beginning of this frigid new year than curled up with your warm blanket, a hot cup of pumpkin spice latte, a crackling fire, and a good book...from the reading program, of course! Now while a "big" book would be the obvious choice to read on a wintry day, GREAT JOY written by Kate DiCamillo is a heart warming story that is my top choice for melting away the frigid edges. It's a period piece story of Frances who captures the true essence of Christ. On a cold, dark street late one night, she notices an organ grinder and his monkey. "Where do they sleep?" she wonders. She becomes quite troubled and can't stop thinking about them, even as she practices her line for the upcoming Christmas pageant. At the pageant, when the moment finally comes for her to say her one line, she shares her compassion and the perfect words, just at the right time! Yes, it's a "Christmas" story, but her compassion and action are Christ's, ones that we need to remember and live year long. And the artist has lent his exquisite talents in portraying this timeless story.

Curl up while you can because we are in a new year, a new season... for we are all keenly aware of how busy as UMW we will soon be! I do look forward to celebrating with each of you all that God has in store for us this year with GREAT JOY!!

Love and Joy!

kkeyse@bellsouth.net

Social Action - Matha Phillips

Greetings Sisters in Christ,

My name is Martha Phillips and I am your new Mission Coordinator for Social Action. I am following the path of Linda Young, a beautiful, spiritual, and committed UM Sister. Linda, we are thankful for your faithful service and example. I am very honored to be in this position and look forward to working with you all as we put our faith in action.

In her editorial for the January RESPONSE magazine, Barbara Wheeler reminds us that "...Christ met people at critical transitions in their lives and shared with them grace, love, and healing. We are called to do no less." Transitions are part of all our lives and in the past year many in America and around the world have found themselves in very difficult transitions - unemployment, lack of health care, devastated by natural disasters, progressively increasing political unrest, political injustice, resource injustice, and the list goes on and on.

In 2010, WNCC United Methodist Women will continue our Public Education initiative "Make a memory with a child," increasing understanding of the Charter for Racial Justice and participation in the Charter Club and supporting UMW projects through our Mission Giving.

Our hearts have been deeply touched by the suffering of the people of Haiti and helping in that recovery will also be a priority for 2010.

United Methodist Women are guided by our PURPOSE as we work to support women, children and youth at home and abroad. Last year at the School of Christian Mission, Ruth Daugherty shared some mission guides with me. They echo the words of our PURPOSE, and in closing I would like to share them with you. PRAY*GIVE*STUDY*ENGAGE*ADVOCATE. Our call, our faith, our action. Grace and Peace.

mwphillips@wildblue.net

Secretary – Ann Aldridge

As we begin 2010, it is important to be reminded that one of our primary responsibilities is to keep accurate minutes of all meetings. Listen carefully and use the meeting agenda as a framework for your minutes. Motions must be recorded exactly as stated. A motion is a formal proposal made by a member of the group, seconded by another member, and passed or defeated by a vote. List the names of those making and seconding motions. Always head minutes with the name of the group, place of meeting, and date. Note persons in attendance and write your minutes in the third person. Record actions, not your opinions. Remember: We ACCEPT resignations and plans of work. We ADOPT bylaws, resolutions, and budgets. We APPROVE minutes. We RECEIVE reports, unless they contain recommendations. Minutes should be written in the past tense and should be concise. When minutes are presented, the chair asks if there are corrections or additions to the minutes. Then the chair states that the minutes are approved as presented or as corrected (if corrections are needed). It is not necessary to ask for a vote on accepting the minutes. Minutes may include the president's name and the secretary's name. The words "Respectfully submitted" represent an older practice that is not essential in the minutes.

District secretaries, if you have not sent me your list of district officers, please do so as soon as possible. Check the "To Do List" section of the notebook I gave you at the officer training. Number 2 asks that the officer list be emailed to me in Excel. Use the CD I gave you for the format. The file is listed as "District Officer List Format (Excel)." Please put the CD in your computer and open that file. Type your information into the file following the format on the file. Save the completed information to your computer and send me an email with this as an attachment. Please remind your president to send me the Summary of Annual Giving for your

district and include the membership for the units in your district. Remember to send a copy of your district minutes to Mildred Carter, our Conference president, to other Conference officers within your district, and to me.

If I may be of service to any of you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 828-433-0988 or through email. ahaldridge@charter.net.

Membership Nurture and Outreach – Sherry Sink

United Methodist Women as stated in our PURPOSE is first "a community of women," and never before has our community of women been so diverse, so busy in their personal lives, and so in need of what United Methodist Women have to offer.

Sometimes we need time and space and someone to share our concerns and experiences with. What better place than at a gathering of United Methodist Women. Sometimes we get hit with some of life's hard knocks and we need support to get us through. What better place than at a gathering of United Methodist Women?

Sometimes God seems far away and we need to get to a quiet place and retreat with God through Bible study and prayer. That sounds like a spiritual growth retreat at Lake Junaluska. As we grow and become better disciples of Jesus Christ, we find the need to serve God using our gifts and graces. We feel the need to learn more about the world and the people that inhabit it. We want to get involved locally and globally. At our School of Christian Mission, we learn about other cultures, general issues, and spiritual growth, and have a hands-on-mission opportunity. We are involved in mission in our communities, nationally and internationally. Community emerges through worship, sharing, praying, working and serving. Let's get started and invite someone to an event or your local unit. Let's build our community. Every woman is invited.

Sherrysink@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation – Virginia Robinson

What an awesome 2009! You answered the call for the Hands-On mission opportunity in July with 2,017 layette kits, or \$70,595 of Mission Giving, a phenomenal amount of giving! Then at the Annual Meeting in September, you again answered the call for mission giving bringing 205 Gift to Mission cards!

2010 is the beginning of a new decade! An exciting way to begin this decade is to continue the journey with mission! New hands-on opportunities will be coming your way. The opportunity for the School of Mission is health kits. Instructions for the kits are included in this Conference Gram. Take up the challenge for your units! Be a Mission Today unit by fulfilling these opportunities.

There are 23 criteria to help you reach Mission Today status. A unit must complete twelve of the criteria, including six marked with an asterisk. Strive to complete one more criterion in 2010 and be a Mission Today unit! But remember, you must complete number one on the list, “The Unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission” That criterion is not an option. Start today and be a Mission Today unit in this new decade.

Several districts will soon be having their mission studies. Take advantage of these learning tools and complete #4 of the criteria. Using the Prayer Calendar and the Program Book are other resources included in the criteria (#2 and #3).

Include Response Moments when planning your programs for the year. This criterion is #17 and you will be following #5* also, subscribing to Response Magazine.

Remember, your conference and district officers love to visit. Include them when planning your calendar for the year and fulfill #21 of the Mission Today criteria.

Challenge your unit to undertake those more difficult criteria. For example #6*, “The Unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways during the year”. You will find them enlightening! Complete one of the issues of the “For Christ’s Sake, Turn the World Upside Down” Initiative. Work together to bring our PURPOSE alive...expand our concepts of mission...develop and create a supportive fellowship. What a way to begin 2010—a new decade in MISSION!

If you have any questions regarding Mission Today or anything else, let me know or contact your district coordinator. Let 2010 be another “best year” yet!

Women’s Division Director – Lynne Gilbert

It is my honor to represent the United Methodist Women of our conference as a member of the Women’s Division Board of Directors. Check out the Women’s Division page that I am maintaining on our website (www.wnccumw.org), and share the information with your local unit. One resource there already is the 2010 budget for the Women’s Division, which shows the plan for how your Mission Giving will be used this year.

2010 is an Assembly year! Over 125 persons from across our conference have registered so far to attend the Assembly in St. Louis, April 29 – May 2. It is not too late to register! Visit the United Methodist Women national website (www.umwmission.org) for information & news about the Assembly!

Thank you for your commitment to mission, for your service as a leader, and for the difference you are making, every day, in the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. YOU make mission possible!

lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net

Hands-on Mission Opportunity for School of Christian Mission: UMCOR Health Kits July 15-18, 2010 Greensboro College

Encourage others in your local unit and congregation to participate... even if they cannot attend the School of Christian Mission. Participating in this Hands-On Mission Opportunity will help your local unit to meet Mission Today criteria #23.

UMCOR Health Kit Contents: Place the following NEW items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag:

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

In a separate envelope, please include a check payable to UMCOR Sager Brown for at least \$2.00 per kit to help with the costs of buying one tube of toothpaste, and the costs of processing and shipping the kits around the world. Please do not put the money envelope in your UMCOR Health Kit bag.

If you are bringing multiple kits, it is fine to just write one check in an amount sufficient to cover all of your kits. If at all possible, please pack your kits in a box that can be handled easily by our women and write the total number of kits on the side of the box. (Paper case boxes are a nice size.)

Spiritual Growth – Dixie Tyson

How exciting that you have accepted the office of Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth. This year we will see several “firsts”. The Spiritual Growth Retreat will be only one event this year – June 18 and 19, 2010. Registration will be held on Friday afternoon beginning at 2:00 PM. We will have three sessions in the Retreat- one on Friday evening with Gathering Praise beginning at 6:45 and Worship at 7:00. There will be two sessions on Saturday morning with Gathering Praise beginning at 8:45 and Worship at 9:00. We hope this will enable our young women to attend as they will not have to miss an entire day of work. The theme is “Grounded in Love”. Reverend Dawn Hand from Matthews United Methodist Church will be our speaker.

Please start now encouraging your ladies to attend this inspirational event. The Registration Form for lodging at Lake Junaluska has been sent to District Presidents and District Spiritual Growth Coordinators. Advanced reservations for lodging on the grounds should have been postmarked between February 8 and February 12, 2010. After that date, please call Lake Junaluska at 1-800-222-4930 or 828-452-2881 for room

availability. You may choose to extend your stay to include Saturday evening at Lake Junaluska. It is a wonderful place for renewal and relaxation and you can enjoy the beauty of the grounds. More information will be in the next Conference Gram.

It’s time to promote the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial service in our districts and units. Isaiah 58:12 from The Message reads: “You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You’ll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.” The theme for the 2010 program is “Property Makes Mission Possible”. The program is on page 58 of the 2010 Program Book.

The offering given at this service will provide for capital expenditures at mission institutions related to United Methodist Women. In the United States, these institutions include community centers, women’s residences, schools, colleges and residential treatment centers. Outside the United States they include hospitals, hostels, clinics, schools, women’s residences, community centers and daycare centers. You have an opportunity to

be creative in planning your program. Your Secretary of Program Resources should have a packet with additional information for 2010.

Prayer is so very important as we begin this new year. Our Conference Executive Team would like for you to remember us this year.

If I can help you, just give me a call or e-mail. I’m excited and anxious but know God is leading and we will walk in new ground together toward great encounters.

mtyson7@carolina.rr.com

PURPOSE *of United Methodist*



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.

2010 WNCC UMW District Presidents

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Conference Gram
WNC Conference United Methodist Women
Janice Lentz, 336 Midway Park Lane, Taylorsville, NC 28681

2010 Calendar of Events for WNC Conference United Methodist Women

April 30-May 2	Assembly in St. Louis, MO
June 10-13	Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska,
June 18-19	Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska
June 24-27	Regional School for Conference Officers and Study Leaders
July 15-18	School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College
September 10-12	Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska
October 9	Officer's Training

Web Site Address: www.wnccumw.org. Lynne Gilbert maintains the web site and welcomes news and information. Just remember our initials: **W**estern **N**orth **C**arolina **C**onference **U**nited **M**ethodist **W**omen. Join Our Conference Email List. To receive conference event information and updates, the Conference Gram, etc., click on join email list.

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. Anyone can sign up to receive it online.



You can also visit us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wnccumw) and YouTube

