

# Conference Gram



Volume 54, Number 3

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

June, 2005

## School of Christian Mission

### “Cornerstones of Hope”

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

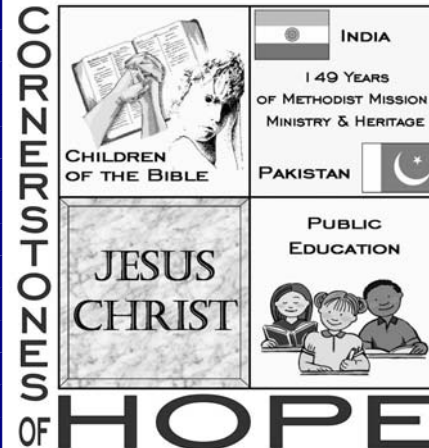
\*Spiritual Growth Study: **Children of the Bible**

\*Geographic Study: **India/Pakistan**

\*General Issue Study: **Public Education**

Registration Deadline: **June 30, 2005**

Registration brochures are available from your District President and on our website at: [www.gb-gm-umc.org/wncumw](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/wncumw)



**Cornerstones of Hope:** Jesus, the cornerstone the builders rejected, is our foundation as we build a future based on lessons from the past. India/Pakistan was a cornerstone of mission as our foremothers funded Clara Swain Hospital in 1868, which still stands as a mission agency founded by United Methodist Women. Schools were the next priority. Today we continue to promote education as we explore the challenges of public education in the United States. Finally, the painful stories of children of the Bible resonate with children's lives today and remind us that Jesus put children at the center of the Gospel.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Registration:** Thursday, 2:00-5:30pm;  
Friday & Sat., 8:00-8:30am

**Discovery Room:** Daily schedules

**Resource Room:** Daily schedules

**Opening Session:** Thurs., 7:00pm

**Morning Praise:** Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 6:45am

**Overview of Studies:** Friday evening 8:30pm and Saturday evening 7:00pm

**Saturday PM Dinner:** India/Pakistan Theme Night - Join the celebration & wear your best India/Pakistan outfits.

**Growth Opportunities:** Saturday afternoon. Topics and times to be announced. Choose one to attend.

**Closing Worship:** Sunday, 11:30am

**Who Should Attend?** Local officers and members of UMW; District and

Conference UMW Officers; District Chairpersons of Outreach Ministries; Ministers; All men, women, and youth of the Church; and Anyone who would like to worship God, learn new things, and enjoy the fellowship of Christians.

**Registration Deadline:** All students must pre-register (Resident, Non-resident, One Day). See registration brochure (available from District Presidents or in your District Newsletters) for cost and miscellaneous fees. There will be **NO** on-site registration. **All registrations must be postmarked by June 29, 2005.**

**Spiritual Growth Study:** “Children of the Bible”. Session times are: Thurs. 7:15pm, 8:30pm; Fri. 9:00am and 7:30pm; Sat. 9:00 am;

**Geographic Study:** India/Pakistan Session times are: Fri. 10:45am and 2:30pm; Sat. 10:45am and 2:00pm; Sun. 8:30am and 10:00am.

**General Issue Study:** Public Education. Session times are: Fri. 10:45am and 2:30pm; Sat. 10:45am and 2:00pm; Sun. 8:30am and 10:00am.

**One-Day Overview:** Geographic & General Issue studies: **Either** Friday **OR** Saturday: 10:45am & 2:00pm.

**Workshop for Leaders of Children:** Fri. 4:15pm or Sat. 4:15pm.

**Location:** Greensboro College, 815 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27401. College Switchboard: (336) 272-7102. Campus security: ext.245.

**Questions:** Call Dorothy Alvord, Dean, School of Christian Mission:  
Phone: 704-362-1860  
Email: [dotalvord@hotmail.com](mailto:dotalvord@hotmail.com)

**HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT:** Health Kits for UMCOR. The need for Health Kits is great. Find more information on what goes into a Health Kit later in this issue.

### President's Message

A joyous welcome to our newest unit of UMW sisters! On May 22, we chartered a unit at Mt. Carmel UMC in Concord (Salisbury District). It is always so wonderful to have these new UMW sisters excited about becoming a part of our great organization. We thank the Salisbury District officers for the encouragement given them; we know they will continue to nurture this new unit.

I hope you have already registered for our School of Christian Mission, July 21-24. If not, please do so NOW! The deadline is drawing near.

This issue of the *Conference Gram*

**Western North Carolina Conference  
United Methodist Women**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

*A Celebration of United Methodist Women*

**“A Portrait For The Future”**

**September 9, 10 & 11, 2005  
Lake Junaluska Assembly**

Hands-on Mission Project: Gift to Mission Cards

**Mark your calendar and plan to join us for an  
exciting Annual Meeting! Bring a friend!**

**Leadership Training  
for  
District Officers**

**October 1, 2005**

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Broad Street UMC, Statesville  
Statesville District**

As the District Nominating Committees work to complete the slate of district officers for 2005, please stress the importance of new and continuing officers attending this training.

will tell you that we have another wonderful school experience in store for us with “*Cornerstones of Hope*” as our overall theme. The subjects are very timely, wonderful study leaders have prepared interesting and educational classes for us, and the Marion District has great plans to be our hostess district. School officers and the School Committee have worked diligently to be sure everything will be ready and waiting for our arrival on the Greensboro College Campus.

The Program Resource Room will again be well stocked with Study Books, Reading Books, Program Books and lots of other helpful and up-to-date UMW information. Plan to spend some time there and don't miss the Discovery Room with displays relating to our studies. It will give us lots of creative ideas of things we can do in our district and unit/church studies.

Something NEW! Ten hours of training toward Advanced Lay Speaker Certification will be offered. Check out the requirements (included in this issue of *Conference Gram*).

Should you find it impossible to come for the entire school, then come Friday or Saturday for a “One-Day Overview”.

Meaningful worship, beautiful music, interesting classes and lots of fellowship. I look forward to our time together as we “expand our concepts of mission”.

Mary Kizer

**Vice-President's Message**

Looking for a program for your local unit? Your district and conference officers are always available to help... by coming to share a program, or by assisting you in finding the resources that you need. Call on us! We want to support you in any way that we can. And, here is a neat bonus... inviting a conference or district officer to one of your meetings will meet Mission Today criteria #20!

One exciting way to learn more about the total program of mission that is United Methodist Women is to attend an Assembly...which happens once every four years. Next year, United Methodist Women from across the nation will gather in Anaheim, California, May 4-7, for **Assembly 2006: Rise! Shine! Glorify God!** Assembly is an incredible event...10,000 United Methodist Women, thrilling worship, bible studies, informative focus groups, exhibits and program resources, inspiration, and fun! Consider attending this exciting event... and start saving now. For more information, contact your district president, or visit our website at:

[www.gbmg-umc.org/wncumw](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/wncumw).

And, if you have not done so already, mark your calendar and plan to attend our conference Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska, September 9, 10 & 11. Annual Meeting is a celebration of United Methodist Women...with worship, fellowship, inspiration, education about mission, and more... come and be part of it! There is no advance registration or fee for attend-

ing Annual Meeting, but you may begin mailing Housing Reservation requests for Lake Junaluska facilities on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our 2005 theme is “*A Portrait for the Future*”...and your program committee is busy planning an exciting weekend. Watch for more information in the next issue of the *Conference Gram*! I look forward to seeing you there! Bring a friend!

Lynne Gilbert

**Program Resources**

Ah! Springtime, then vacation time. Don't forget to take those reading program books with you to help you relax. Begin your day with *Diary of Daily Prayer* (#2228) and *Learning to Pray* (#2262). Your vacation or time at home spent with God will be enhanced by these readings.

If your youth are accompanying you, there are many books available to them: *Journey of the Sparrows* (#2237), *The Kidnapped Prince* (#2261) and *Dive Into Living Water* (#2249) (50 devotionals). These are just a few of the youth books they will enjoy. Adults may also read from the youth list for credit. These will be available at all United Methodist Women's events or may be ordered from Service Center, either by phone, 1-800-305-9857, regular mail through Service Center Catalog, by email at [SCorders@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:SCorders@gbgm-umc.org), or online at [www.scorders.org](http://www.scorders.org).

Your children will enjoy reading with you, as you encourage them to partici-

pate in the new Children's Reading Program. As mentioned in the last newsletter, certificates will be issued this year for children participating in the program. Full details are available on the conference website at [www.gbgm-umc.org/wncumw](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/wncumw) or call me or the Secretary of Program Resources in your district with any questions. Do you have a chart listing the children that are reading on the Children's Reading Program?

India and Pakistan, Children of the Bible, and Public Education will be the studies for the School of Christian Mission this year. I will have these books available for you there and hope to see many of you in the Resource Room.

You are so blessed to belong to United Methodist Women, who offer such an abundance of wonderful resources to enhance your life in so many ways and keep you aware of all issues.

Three excellent books from the reading program will be among others for your awareness...*Mohandas Gandhi* (#2255), *Inside Islam* (#2252) and *Christianity, Judaism and Islam* (#3491). Don't forget regular reading of *Response* and *New World Outlook*. Issues relative to India and Pakistan will be available also.

Have you started a "Prayer Shawl Knitting Group" in your unit or church? You will find *Knitting Into The Mystery: A Guide To The Shawl-Knitting Ministry* a meaningful and inspiring guide to direct you in this ministry.

I look forward to seeing you at Greensboro College in July.

**Bettie Sharpe Rowe**

### Spiritual Growth

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore me to the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalm 51:10,12.* As we dance through spring and enter the early stages of summer, we are reminded of a time of renewal as the buds come on the trees, eventually to form umbrellas of shade; flowers share their profusion of color; and the sounds of children fill the air with the

promise of a slower, more relaxed time of the year. It is a time for us to think about whether we as UMW are spending some of this time seeking renewal for *ourselves*. Are we feeding the spirit within so that it will continue to sustain us? Are we taking time to visit with God through prayer and through scripture? It requires us to take intentional time out just for ourselves. The investment of a little time can reap huge benefits!



I hope you are planning to attend the Spiritual Growth Retreats at Lake Junaluska. It will be time well spent and will help you to experience the *joy* of your spirit, renewing your hope and strength to deal with the many demands on your time. Encourage the women in your units to take time out for themselves. Help educate them on some of the ways in which they can help their spiritual side to grow in a manner that is pleasing to God. One of the tools for spiritual growth we as UMW have is the Reading Program. You, as one of the mission coordinators, have the opportunity to encourage your members to read so that they might grow! Highlight one of the books at a UMW gathering, or post a short description on your UMW bulletin board or in your church newsletter.

If you are unable to attend the retreats, another opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth awaits you at the School of Christian Mission, July 21-24, at Greensboro College. The Spiritual Growth study this year, under the leadership of Rev. Lynne Blankenship Caldwell, is entitled *Children of the Bible*. Come and experience opportunities for study and worship in a stimulating and *invigorating* atmosphere!

I hope you, along with the rest of your executive team, are encouraging your members to come to conference and district events. Attend some of the events yourself, so you can *enthusiastically* communicate with others. It is hard to promote an event if you have never been yourself. Come for worship, fellowship and growth as a

United Methodist Woman!

As always, if you have questions, contact your district mission coordinator for Spiritual Growth. If you do not know who that is, contact me and I will give you that information.

**Kris Peurifoy**

### 2005 CONFERENCE LOVE OFFERING An Undesignated Gift to Mission

*In Honor of Retired and Active  
Mission Personnel Related to  
the Western North Carolina  
Conference*

You may bring your Love Offering or your Local Unit's offering to Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska, September 9-11, or send it directly to:

Amy Johnson,  
Conference Treasurer  
4920 Belgrove Drive  
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

Please make checks payable to:  
Treasurer, WNCU UMW

### Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Both hospitality and nurturing are well used in our organization...as they should be. Let's take a closer look at both of them.

In the Old Testament, hospitality was a virtue, as well as a duty. Providing the basics for comfort of strangers and guests alike was an ethical requirement. Even Jesus, when he began his public ministry, chose to live in the condition of having to rely on the hospitality of others.

On Saturday afternoon at the School, you will have the opportunity of learning the art of nurturing other United Methodist Women. The growth opportunity titled "Nurturing Is..." will give you ideas of ways to nurture your members and others. The story of Mary, Martha and Lazarus found in Luke 10:38-42 and the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:5-10 tell us how important hospitality and nurturing were in the life of Jesus.

If you hold the office of Membership Nurture and Outreach or are just interested in how to become more effective in nurturing as a United

Methodist Woman, plan to join us for *NURTURING IS*.....

Polly Pearson

### FULFILLING THE PURPOSE THROUGH MISSION

Everything we do as United Methodist Women is to fulfill our Purpose and everything we do as United Methodist Women is about mission. Our Conference Financial Goal for 2005 is to **challenge each local UMW member to increase her pledge by at least \$1.00**. A dollar doesn't seem like very much money to one person. However, if ALL members of the Western North Carolina Conference UMW gave one more dollar, there would be an extra \$38,000 for mission.

What could these extra funds provide? YOUR Undesignated Pledge to Mission dollar helps to pay for the expenses associated with our Conference events such as Spiritual Growth Retreats, School of Christian Mission, and Annual Meeting. YOUR Undesignated Pledge to Mission dollar helps to provide resources that we need to help us learn about being in mission such as *Response* magazine, our program book, and the Prayer Calendar. YOUR Undesignated Pledge to Mission dollar helps to make mission possible all around the world through support of mission projects such as...

- **Isabella Thoburn College** in India where 3500 students have an opportunity to grow into strong, independent, and educated women.
- **The Society for the Upliftment of the Economically Backward** – a microfinance organization in Chennai, India. This organization is a “self-help” organization where women collect their savings as a group and then lend money to each other. The organizational assistance and technical training provided by this organization is giving women hope to make the lives of the children better.
- **ECPAT-USA** (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), an organization that is working to end these practices which is not only present in other countries, but also in the United

States.

- **Campaign for Children** that focuses on public education.
- **The Rugmark Campaign**, a program that helps to prevent child sweat shops.

These are just a few of the many projects where an extra \$1.00 could help to make a difference. Contributing an extra dollar can be as simple as giving up a can of soda pop. Think what would happen if each of the 38,000+ members of this conference gave up a can of soda each month for the year. That would be a total of \$456,000! Impossible? Nothing is impossible with God!

Read *Response* magazine to learn more about these and many other projects where YOU are making a difference through undesignated giving. **THANK YOU for helping to make mission possible!**

Amy Johnson, Treasurer

### Social Action

Greetings my Sisters in Christ!! I hope that you are planning on attending the School of Christian Mission, July 21-24, at Greensboro College. There will be Social Action, so you don't want to miss. See you there!! Although “Cover the Uninsured Week” for this year has come and gone, the call to action for us is ongoing. It is time for UMW and communities to focus attention on the struggles of the uninsured. Help children get health coverage. There are 8.5 million children in America without health coverage. More than half are eligible for low cost or free health care coverage through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) or Medicaid. These programs are designed to include working families. Many parents do not realize that their children are eligible. The “Covering Kids & Families” project works with people in the non-profit, public, and private sectors to identify, enroll, and re-enroll eligible children in Health Check/NC Health Choice. Visit [www.ncped.org](http://www.ncped.org) and in the left margin click on NC Covering Kids. Find out how you can promote children's health insurance, and see

the latest income eligibility guidelines. Families with incomes higher than the guidelines MAY qualify if they have childcare, work-related, or child support expenses.

**URGENT action needed!!!** Currently the US Senate is deciding on the 2006 Foreign Operations bill which will also include funding for micro-enterprise programs. These programs extend small loans and other financial services, such as savings to very poor people for self-employment projects that generate income, allowing them to care for themselves and their families. According to the *State of the Microcredit Summit Campaign*, 14.2 million of the world's poorest women now have access to financial services through specialized microfinance institutions. Most of these women have access to credit, to invest in businesses that they own and operate themselves. Please urge Senator Dole and Senator Burr to protect funding for micro-enterprise at last year's levels. Write, fax, or call Chairman Mitch McConnell and Sen. Patrick Leahy and specifically ask that at least \$200 million be provided in the FY06 Foreign Operations bill for microenterprise programs overall, with at least \$100 million of that to benefit the very poor and \$30 million going to the Microenterprise Development Office. Contact the following Senators on microenterprise: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, 361A Senate Office Bldg.; The Honorable Patrick Leahy, 433 Russell Senate Office Bldg.; The Honorable Elizabeth Dole, 555 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.; The Honorable Richard Burr, 217 Russell Senate Office Bldg; all at Washington DC 20510.

Angela White



### Annual Meeting A Celebration of United Methodist Women

September 9, 10, & 11  
Lake Junaluska

Housing Reservation  
Requests for Annual  
Meeting can be mailed  
beginning July 1st.

**The School Committee** is composed of: Dot Alvord (chair), Ruth Rideout, Winifred Helton, Martha Houser, Mary Kizer, Lynne Gilbert, Carolyn Kiker, Amy Johnson, Polly Pearson, Angela White, Kris Peurifoy, Sherry Sink, Bettie Sharpe Rowe, Karen Wilkerson, Ann Aldridge, Sara Williams and Rev. Mark Barden.

**Music Leader:** Rene' Shoffner Summerlin and Alice Brown. **Media Specialists:** Sharon Smith and Sharon Quate.

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY Children of the Bible

**Reverend Lynne Blankenship Caldwell** is our study leader for *Children of the Bible*. She is currently serving as the District Superintendent for the High Point District, and has served as pastor in several local churches in our conference. She is a graduate of Berea College, and earned her Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. She also has completed the Royce and Jane Reynolds Church Leadership Program for Pastors, and has a certificate in church leadership from the Duke Divinity School. Lynne has been active on many boards and commissions at the conference and jurisdiction level. She was elected a delegate to the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and attended the 2004 General Conference as an alternate delegate. Lynne is a native of Black Mountain, and is married to Neill Caldwell, a freelance journalist.



**India and Pakistan-Study Leaders**

**Rev. Joseph Agne** is a United Methodist pastor in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, and is currently serving as pastor at Memorial United Methodist Church in White Plains, New York. He is also a consultant to the General Board of Global Ministries on ministry in the midst of hate and violence, and Coordinator of the National Inter-religious Racial Justice Connection. He is a graduate of North Central College, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Wesley Theological Seminary, and New York Theological Seminary (ABD). He was among the students who organized with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Chicago. He has served as a commissioner of the World Council of Churches' Program to Combat Racism and as the Racial Justice Program Director for the National Council of Churches. Rev. Agne is the author of numerous published articles and is a frequent speaker and workshop leader. He is the father of four children and is married to Dana Jones, Editor of Response Magazine.



**Dr. Solomon Christian** is a member of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Memphis, TN. He was born, raised, and educated in India, and moved to the United States in the late 1970's. Dr. Christian is a practicing dentist and is very active in the profession and the community through volunteer services. He is a founding member and currently President of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Southeastern Jurisdiction Medical Fellowship. He is also a founding member and currently a board member of the United Methodist Fellowship of Health Care Volunteers through the General Board of Global Ministries.



**Faye Hackney-Lance** is a native of High Point. She attended Pfeiffer College, and she received the R.N. degree from Presbyterian Hospital and the B.S.N. from Queens College in Charlotte. She married Rev. Edwin Hackney, and as they served in the Western North Carolina Conference they taught a mission course and became convinced they ought to go as missionaries. After attending the Kennedy School of Missions in Hartford, Connecticut, and two years of language school in India, they served in India for 24 years, with Rev. Hackney serving as a District Superintendent, and Faye doing village medical work among persons with leprosy, and medical and educational work and evangelism. They returned to the United States and served two appointments before they retired. Rev. Hackney died soon after their retirement. Faye later went to India to visit and renewed her acquaintance with Bishop Joseph Lance, and they were married in India. Faye lives at Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville.



**Frances Major** grew up in Anderson County near Piedmont, South Carolina. She received her college degree from Indiana Wesleyan and her M. Ed. from Emory University. She served as a missionary in India from 1946 to 1989 and was present for the coming of Indian Independence, the genesis of Pakistan and Bangladesh, and the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. She served in a variety of appointments while in India, including as a teacher, district evangelist, Women's Division Central Treasurer for India, Principal of Calcutta Girls High School, and Pastor of a village church. In 1989 she moved to Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville where she stays busy with local volunteer work. In 1993, the Governor of South Carolina awarded her the "Order of the Palmetto". Presently she is working with the Western North Carolina Conference Building Team Committee in planning for a building team to go to Jharkahnd, India in January 2006 to help repair a Methodist parsonage in Pakaur.

**GENERAL ISSUE STUDY  
Public Education—Study Leaders**

**Bonnie Henry** is a speech/language pathologist at a public elementary school in Charlotte. She serves on the community steering committee for the Character Education initiative that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are pursuing and she was the grant writer for a federal grant to develop the initiative. She is a graduate





of Appalachian State University where she received a Bachelor's degree in speech and hearing, and a Master's degree in speech/language pathology. She is certified by the American Speech,

Hearing, Language Association. Bonnie is an active member of Sharon United Methodist Church where she sings in the praise choir, and is involved in youth and children's ministries.

**Dr. Giselle Jones-Jones** is the Curriculum Facilitator at Joyner Elementary School in Greensboro. She is a graduate of Spelman College, and she earned her Masters in English/African-American



Literature at North Carolina A&T State University, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from UNC-Greensboro. She has been active in numerous educational, church and community organiza-

tions, and is a frequent workshop leader and speaker. Giselle has written two successful plays which have been produced in High Point and Greensboro, and she has traveled extensively in North America and in West Africa. She also enjoys music, and currently serves as the Minister of Music at Faith United Methodist Church in Mooresville.

**Patricia W. Wiseman** is a native of Guilford County. She is a graduate of Bennett College, NC A&T State University, and UNC-Greensboro. She also pursued fur-



ther studies at the University of Miami in Ohio and at UCLA. Patricia retired in 1994 as a public school teacher in the Greensboro City schools. She is an active member of Celia

Phelps Memorial UMC, an active lay member of the Greensboro District, and a teacher for the District Lay Speaking Ministry. She served as Dean of the School of Christian Mission for 2003 & 2004, and is a past Historian of the WNCC UMW.

**Rev. Lisa Wishon** is pastor at Trinity UMC in King, North Carolina. A native of Yadkin County, she was a high school English teacher before entering the ministry. She is a graduate of Maryville College, Wake Forest University, and the Divinity School at Duke University. Ordained a deacon in 1991 and an elder in



1994, she has served pastorates in Polk, Burke, and Forsyth counties before moving to Stokes County in June 2003. She is single and enjoys reading, movies, music, art, crafts, museums, and travel. As a pastor she strives to involve congregations in personal spiritual growth and involvement in mission.

**Dr. Larry Liggett** is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace Methodist College and earned his Master's Degree and Ph.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill. He was principal



at Asheville High School for 18 years and was honored as Western Regional Principal of the Year in 1984 and 1993. He received the Award for Excellence in Arts Education from the State Dept. of Public Educa-

tion. Since his retirement from Asheville City Schools in 2002, he has devoted much of his time to Caring for Children, Inc., a local agency that provides shelter, education & treatment for children in crisis. He was one of the founders of that agency 25 years ago and served as its first president. A lifelong Methodist, he currently serves as the Administrative Board Chair at Skyland UMC. He and his wife Dixie, an active United Methodist Woman, have two grown children.

### ONE-DAY OVERVIEWS India/Pakistan and Public Education Study Leaders

**Nancy Garrison** is a North Carolina licensed nursing home administrator and works for the Women's Division as Executive Director/Administrator at Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, N.C. (Brooks-Howell Home is a retirement community for missionaries and



deaconesses and owned by the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries). Nancy and husband Richard have five children and five grandchildren. In 2004 Nancy traveled to India. In the

three weeks of traveling with missionaries who had spent over thirty years each in that country, she learned the real day-to-day lives of the people and saw "sites" that most tourists will never see. "The Indian people are an amazing and beautiful people". Currently Nancy is studying

to become a Deaconess

**Linda Reep** is a School Media Coordinator at Sweetwater Elementary School in Hickory, North Carolina. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University with a



Bachelors degree in Library Science and a Masters degree in Educational Media. She is a very active member of Messiah United Methodist Church in Lincolnton, where she currently serves as Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations

Committee and as teacher of the 4-5-6 grade Sunday School. Linda has served in numerous capacities in United Methodist Women, on local, district and conference levels. She most recently served on the conference team as Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.

**NEW!** NEW AT OUR SCHOOL THIS YEAR!!

**Lay Speaker Certification:** 10 hours of training toward Advance Certification will be offered. To qualify: 1) You must have already completed the Basic Course for Lay Speaking. 2) Attend all class sessions for your mission study—India/Pakistan or Public Education. 3) Attend all class sessions for the bible-based study—Children of the Bible. 4) Participate in all classroom assignments by your study leaders. 5) Fill out and return special form (available from your class secretary) to the School of Christian Mission office by the close of the school. No special class to attend. All you need do is attend and participate in the complete School.

- Bring this issue of the *Conference*
- *Gram* with you when you attend
- our School of Christian Mission.
- It is a useful resource and guide.



Assembly 2006  
May 4-7, 2006 ♦ Anaheim, California  
Info at: [www.gb-gm-umc.org/wncumw](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/wncumw)

## WORKSHOP FOR LEADERS OF CHILDREN

**Albertina McGirt** is a native of Roland, a small rural township in Robeson County, North Carolina. She attended Bennett College, and is employed by North Carolina A&T State University where she is the Upward Bound Program Assistant, and past chair of the NC A&T Staff Senate. Albertina is an active member of Saint Matthews United Methodist Church in Greensboro, where she serves as lay delegate, vice president of United Methodist Women, and is a member of the Chancel and Gospel choruses.



## DEAN OF SCHOOL

**Dot Weems Alvord**, a native of Alabama, received a B.A. in Religion & Philosophy from Birmingham Southern College. She received her elementary teacher's certification, Winston-Salem State University, and a Masters in Early Childhood Ed., Gardner-Webb University. During her term as a missionary partner with her husband in Zimbabwe, she served on many levels in United Methodist Women as well as Director of the Nyakatspap Home Craft School for girls. Upon returning to the United States, Dot taught in the public school system and served on local and district levels in UMW. She has also taught in Schools of Christian Mission for several conferences. She is currently an active member of Sharon UMC.



## ASSISTANT DEAN

**Ruth Rideout** is a member of St. Matthews UMC in Greensboro. As a United Methodist Woman, she is a past circle leader and is a member of Group 2 at St. Matthews. Other roles she has had in the local unit include Social Action Committee and Historian. She has served on the Church Council, as a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, chaired Higher Education and Career and serves on the sub-committee of Church and Society. Ruth is the founder of a non-profit, Faith Matters, that serves low-income



women and women moving from welfare to economic self-sufficiency. Her organization has been funded by the General Board of Global Ministries, Women's Division, as well as the Western NC Conference Office of Nurture and Outreach.

## BUSINESS MANAGER

**Winifred Helton** lives in Charlotte and is a member of Grace UMC. She is currently serving as her local unit UMW President and as the church treasurer. She served four years as the Charlotte District UMW Treasurer. Winifred retired in 1997 after 31 years with the United Way of Central Carolinas. She is treasurer of the national United Way Retirees Association and is a consultant with the Iredell County Partnership for Children. She has one son and two grandchildren.



## HOUSING MANAGER

**Martha Houser** is an active member of McKendree UMC in Lincolnton & has lived in Lincolnton all her life. She has served in various offices in UMW in her local unit, including President and Treasurer. She is now the District Vice President for the Gastonia District UMW, previously serving as the District ME&I. She has one daughter and one granddaughter.



## DIRECTIONS TO GREENSBORO COLLEGE

**From the North:** From I-85. As you approach Greensboro, follow Business 85 South/I-40 West into Greensboro (exit #131). Business 1-85 South will then split from I-40 West. Stay to the right and follow I-40 West towards Winston-Salem. \*Go approximately 7 miles and take the Wendover Avenue exit (#214). Turn right when coming off the exit ramp and follow Wendover Avenue approximately 3.8 miles to the Downtown/West Market Street exit. Turn right at the traffic light at the bottom of the exit ramp. Follow Market Street for 1.7 miles. Turn right onto College Place. \*\*Park in the lot beside the Welcome Center. Come into the Cowan Humanities Building lobby for registration.

**From the South:** From I-85. Take the Business 85 / I-40 exit (#120) into Greensboro. From Business 85, take the Holden Road exit. Turn right at the top of the ramp onto Holden Road. Follow Holden Road for approximately 10 miles. After going under the Wendover Avenue overpass take a right at the third light. This is West Market Street. Follow West Mar-

ket Street for approximately 2 miles and turn right onto College Place. Follow the directions at the \*\* above.

**From the West:** Follow I-40 into Greensboro. Take the Wendover Avenue Eastbound Exit (#214). Stay on Wendover for 3.8 miles and take the Downtown/West Market Street Exit. Turn right at the light at the bottom of the ramp and go 1.7 miles. Turn right onto College Place. Follow the directions at the \*\* above.

## HEALTH KITS NEEDED!!! Education and Interpretation

"To experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ..." An opportunity to make this part of our Purpose come alive happens July 21-24 at the School of Christian Mission. By being a part of this event you will become more aware of the world in which we live. We are collecting HEALTH KITS. The HEALTH KITS will be sent to the UMCOR Depot at Sager-Brown. Please do not add any extra items. Do not add anything that is not on the list. All kits need to be the same. Kits include.....

- 1 hand towel (15 x 25" up to 17" x 27")
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket size)
- 1 metal nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath size bar of soap (3 oz. & up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brush only & in original wrapper)
- 1 large tube of toothpaste (expiration date must be one year or longer in advance of the date of our school)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

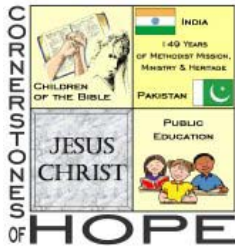
Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag. In a separate envelope, please bring a check written to *UMCOR Sager Brown* for at least \$1.00 for each kit you bring. Writing one check for all of your kits is fine. By your unit's attendance at the School and participation in the Hands on Mission Opportunity, you will meet #2 and #12 of the Mission Today Criteria!!

Thank you!! You are making a difference! Your gift of a health kit might just provide a *Cornerstone of Hope* for someone in their time of need!!

**Sherry Sink**

**CONFERENCE GRAM**

The official newsletter of the  
**Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women**  
Karen Wilkerson, 2829 17th Avenue SE, Newton NC, 28658



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR WNC CONFERENCE UMW 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

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

**Website address for WNCC UMW:** [www.gbgn-umc.org/wncumw](http://www.gbgn-umc.org/wncumw)

**Join our Email List:** To receive conference event information, updates, the *Conference Gram*, etc: send an email to Lynne Gilbert ([lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net](mailto:lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net)) or Carolyn Kiker ([kiker2@aol.com](mailto:kiker2@aol.com)), giving your name, email address, and district name. Join Now!

Please send **articles and photos** (about UMW activities) **for the N.C. Christian Advocate** to: Karen Wilkerson, 2829 17th Avenue SE, Newton NC 28658, 828-328-3045, or e-mail at: [kwilkerson@charter.net](mailto:kwilkerson@charter.net)

The Conference Gram is published four times per year by the WNCC UMW and 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 at the address below. Others may subscribe below.

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