

Conference Gram



Volume 55, Number 3

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

June, 2006

School of Christian Mission

"Harvesting Peace"

Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina
July 13-16, 2006

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

Geographic Study: India/Pakistan

***General Issue Study: "Globalization: Its Impact On People's Lives"**

Registration Deadline: June 23, 2006

Registration brochures are available from your District President.



"Harvesting Peace"

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." These are words of Jesus communicated to us through the gospel of John. How have we used the gift of peace that Jesus gave to us? Shalom-Salaam-Peace, three words which mean "peace" from the three "Abrahamic" religions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity, provide the foundation for our 2006 Spiritual Growth Study. How can we embody the Greatest Commandment—to love God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself, at a time when most of the world is involved in war or conflict. It is imperative that we, as followers of Jesus, find every opportunity to share and promote peace.

This year's studies will challenge us to look at what peace means for each of us as members of the global community, as people of India and Pakistan, and as members of different religious groups. We come in peace to explore our role as Christian members of society and to be God's witnesses to the end of the world.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Registration: Thursday, 2:00-5:30pm; Friday & Saturday, 8:00-8:30am

Discovery Room & Resource Room: Daily schedules

Opening Session: Thursday, 7:00pm

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

Friday PM Dinner: Signs of Peace

Peace Celebration: Friday evening, 6:30pm

Plenary-Globalization: Saturday evening, 7:00pm

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 other 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 22, 2006**.

Spiritual Growth Study: "Shalom-Salaam-Peace" Session times are: Thurs. 7:30pm, Fri. 9:00am and 7:30pm; Sat. 9:00am.

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: "Globalization: Its Impact On People's Lives" 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 10:45am & 2:00pm **OR** Saturday 10:45am & 2:00pm.

Workshop for Leaders of Children: Fri. 4:15pm; Repeated Sat. 4:00pm.

Lay Speaker Certification: 10 hours of training toward Advanced 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 Globalization. 3) Attend all class sessions for the Bible-based study—Shalom-Salaam-Peace. 4) Participate in all classroom assignments by your study leaders. 5) Fill out and return special form (available from your class secretary) to 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 School.

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, 704-362-1860, dotalvord@hotmail.com

Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women

ANNUAL MEETING

“Rise! Shine! Glorify God!”

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

Hands-on Mission Project: Gift to Mission Cards

Mark your calendar!

Leadership Training
for
District Officers

October 14, 2006
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

First UMC in Gastonia

As the District Nominating Committees work to complete the slate of district officers for 2006, please stress the importance of new and continuing officers attending this training.

President

In fulfilling our Purpose, what better way is there to *expand our concepts of mission* than by attending the School of Christian Mission at Greensboro College? It will be a full schedule of classes and “growth opportunities” (a new phrase for workshops) for the time that we are there. And, for those of you who may not be able to come for the entire weekend, make plans to participate in one of the one-day overview sessions on Friday or Saturday.

Be sure to visit the Discovery Room and Program Resources while you are there. There are several books on the Reading Program to supplement the study books. One of the books is “*My Indian Jatra*” by Frances Major, a retired missionary who lives at Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville.

The themes for the studies are chosen several years in advance. It always amazes me how the three studies relate to each other so well and how timely they are in relation to the world news. As women organized for mission, the studies engage us to take action after our studies are complete to make the world a better place in which to live.

I first attended the School of Christian Mission in 1990 at Pfeiffer University. What an experience! I came home knowing that I would make every effort to attend this event the next year, and I have not missed one since then. I hope you will make plans to attend this year’s School of Christian Mission. I look forward to sharing the weekend with you.

Amy Johnson — jdeere620@aol.com

Vice President

For many years, the School of Christian Mission (SCM) has been one of the highlights of my summer. The SCM was the first conference event which I attended. For me, it was a vacation. I didn’t have to cook, clean, answer the phone, carpool, etc. It was my time to focus on worship, study, fellowship and be with dedicated women. I always come back renewed with good program ideas. The studies at the SCM may be used in a variety of ways. Portions may be used for short programs or a complete study may be done in a retreat setting or over several meetings. If you have never been to the SCM, come once and you will return year after year.

Are you looking for a good program and don’t know where to turn? Your district and conference officers are available to help. We can assist you with programming ideas and where to find resources that you need. We can share a program with your group. By having an officer from the conference or district come to your gathering, you will meet Mission Today criteria #20. Units large, small, or medium in size can be a Mission Today Unit.

Rise! Shine! Glorify God! was the May 2006 Assembly theme and is your Conference Annual Meeting theme for September 8, 9, 10 at Lake Junaluska. There is no advance registration nor fee for attending Annual Meeting. Housing reservations for Lake Junaluska facilities may be sent in now. Forms may be downloaded from our website at www.gbmm-umc.org/wncumw. Our next issue of the Conference Gram will be full of information about Annual Meeting. Make your plans now for a large group from your unit to attend Conference Annual Meeting. Bring a friend or ten! You may

come for a session, a day, or the whole weekend. This meeting is open to all – including non-Methodists.

Sandy Hieronymus—sandyh46@aol.com

Program Resources

As you plan your vacation, don't forget Reading Program Planning! Take plenty of those books you've been meaning to read so you'll have a good selection from which to choose. Who knows, sitting on the beach you may get more than one read! I plan to take *My Indian Jatra* by Frances Major who resides at Brooks Howell. That will count as 2 books. For morning devotions or evening vespers, gather the family together and read a selection from *Beyond Greens and Cornbread* or *52 Hymn Story Devotions*.

If you aren't able to be in a beach setting, find some quiet time at home for yourself to read. You owe this time to yourself! This could be your “*God Enhancement Time*.”

While you're reading, this would be a good time to read along side a child-your child, grandchild or just a young friend. Many wonderful books are available from the reading list in the children's section. Once a child has read 5 books from the list, submit their name to either me or your district Secretary of Program Resources. I will try to issue certificates in a timely manner. There is no deadline and these can be submitted any time during the year.

I look forward to seeing you at the School of Christian Mission this year at Greensboro College. We will learn more about *India and Pakistan*, explore *Globalization and Its Impact On People's Lives* and learn more about embodying the Greatest Commandment as

Bishop McCleskey guides us in *Shalom-Salaam-Peace*. Books on these subjects will be available at registration as well as in the Resource Room.

I'll also have Reading Program books, Children's books and many other resources to help you on your faith journey. Also remember regular reading of *Response* and *New World Outlook*.

As United Methodist Women, we want to study and learn in order to know God's purpose for us and in knowing that, we can fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women. Part of our learning took place at the United Methodist Women's Assembly in California. I have a magnificent memory of the 1600 prayer shawls that I saw there, that you knitted and sent without knowledge of the recipient. I know many of you received your direction from the reading program book, *Knitting Into The Mystery*.

Let me know how I can help you in Program Resources.

Bettie Sharpe Rowe
cnbsrowe@northstate.net

Spiritual Growth

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 NIV. This year the theme of light trips its way through many of the events in which we as United Methodist Women will participate. Light is at all times with us, is it not? We may not always see it for at night darkness descends and unless there is artificial light around, we cannot see. Spring brings with it its own special light, and we are reminded of a time of renewal as the trees and bushes put on their dainty undergarments in preparation for the warmer weather ahead. We as United Methodist Women are fortunate in that no matter where we are or in what situation, we always have our light with us. Sometimes we need to be reminded of that and we need to use that light not only as a tool in our own spiritual renewal, but as one reaching out to those having a hard time finding their own light. As Spiritual Growth coordinators, spend some time basking in the warmth of your light, then carry that light so that it can be seen by those in your district and in your unit.

I hope you are planning to attend the Spiritual Growth Retreats at Lake Junaluska. For those who may not have seen the information on the retreats, the theme is *"Help! My Light Is Under a Bushel."* Retreat I is June 16/17 and Retreat II is June 17/18. Please note that

registration is from 12:30-4:00 for each retreat. After that, registration will be in the lobby of Stuart Auditorium before each session. Session times are: Session I: 3:45pm, Session II: 7:15pm, Session III: 9:00am and Session IV: 10:30 am. We hope you will be able to attend, taking some time for your own spiritual renewal and encouraging also those in your unit to attend. You may request availability of rooms on the retreat center grounds by calling 1-800-222-4930.

If you are unable to attend the retreats, another opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth awaits you at the School of Christian Mission, July 13-16, at Greensboro College. The Spiritual Growth study this year, under the leadership of Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, is entitled *Shalom-Salaam-Peace*. 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 that 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—Krispeurifoy@aol.com



Read *Response Magazine* to learn more about the mission stories and see how our Undesignated Giving is helping around the world. When you see this symbol at the end of an article in *Response*, you and your unit have contributed money toward that project/projects listed in the article. YOU make life better for women, children and youth around the world. YOU make Mission possible through Undesignated Giving.

Our Hands-On Mission Opportunity

Health Kits for UMCOR

Please open this up to your local congregations. The need for the health kits is great!! All items must be new. All kits need to be the same. **Do not add extra items.** Each person attending our School will receive complete details concerning the Health Kits with their registration confirmation letter.

For more information on the Health Kits for UMCOR visit our conference website at www.gb-gm-umc.org/wncumw.

- **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 your school)**
- **6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages**

Place these items inside a sealable 1 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 your kits is fine. **Do not** put your money inside the plastic bag with the kit. It will help us as we pack the kits if the money is not inside the bag. There will be a separate basket/box for you to place your money envelope in. **By your unit's attendance at the School and by participation in the Hands-on Mission Opportunity you will meet #2 and #12 of the Mission Today Criteria!!**

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

Treasurer

Everything we do as United Methodist Women is to fulfill our **Purpose** and everything we do is about Mission. Each new year brings new challenges and the need for undesignated funds is greater than ever. Our 2006 Financial Goal is to challenge each local unit to increase their Pledge to Mission by one dollar per member. One dollar doesn't seem like much, but if all of the UMW units in our conference increased their pledge by just one dollar per member, there would be an extra \$38,000 for mission.

Your Undesignated Pledge to Mission helps to make mission possible all around the world through the support of mission projects. In the September 2005 issue of **Response**, Alice Belton states that "Financial giving is a way for UMW to express their faith. United Methodist Women respond to the needs of people. If we are committed to women, children and youth, we must be equally committed to securing money for mission. Giving is a privilege – a gift of God's grace. Giving to mission is a commitment to proclaiming the Gospel in its many forms." In this issue are the maps and locations of mission projects supported by United Methodist Women.

We need to be in prayer for the mission work of United Methodist Women and we need to thank God for the opportunity to be a part of UMW's mission outreach around the world. As United Methodist Women, we pledge our prayers, our time, and our gifts as we seek to fulfill our **PURPOSE**. **YOUR GIFTS** make mission possible throughout the world.

Sharon Smith—kitty5255@yahoo.com

Education & Interpretation

The School of Christian Mission at Greensboro College is like a window to the world for United Methodist Women. This is a chance to put your nose against the window pane and look into a world that we may not be able to personally travel to, but not to worry, our teachers will take you there through our geographic study of India and Pakistan. As we open our window to the world, we find a general issue that affects everyone around the world—Globalization. Our Spiritual Growth Study will focus on Peace in the Bible and In Our Time.

Attending the School of Christian Mission fulfills Mission Today criteria # 2-At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or district officer) will attend

the School of Christian Mission.

Don't forget to bring your Health Kits that will go to our Mission Response Center to be distributed in the event of a disaster to anyone in need anywhere in the world. This Hands-on Mission Opportunity will fulfill Mission Today criteria #12-The unit will select a project from the Women's Division Resources for Mission Catalog and will contribute the needed resources to the mission project (if your unit participates in a Hands-on Mission project from the Mission Catalog sponsored by your district or conference, your unit will meet this criteria).

As we look through that window again, don't forget those people that are serving out there. They are listed in your **Prayer Calendar** and need a card from your unit. If you send cards to five of them, you have fulfilled Mission Today criteria #6-Members will correspond with five persons listed in the prayer calendar at least once a year.

So take a vacation and see the world through the eyes of United Methodist Women at **OUR** window to the world, the School of Christian Mission. See you there!

Sherry Sink—Sherika12754@aol.com

Making Our Purpose Come Alive Through Mission Today!!!

Social Action

By the time you get this Conference Gram, many from our Conference will have attended The United Methodist Women's Assembly in Anaheim, California. We are excited about our time of worship, Bible studies, focus groups, and the fellowship. Thousands of women from all over the world will be sharing concerns and ideas that the conferences, districts, and local units can implement and fulfill our **Purpose**.

There are several issues in the headlines that need to be addressed such as: Immigration and Refugee Rights; Campaign for Commercial-Free Childhood; Care Bill to amend the Fair Labor Standard Act of 1938; A Jobs Bill that will benefit growers and workers; National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; Protect Children from Mercury-Containing Drugs. In order to address these and other Christian Social Responsibilities, you must first always

gather background information. Then find the scriptural base on the issue. Finally, know the policy base which is found in The United Methodist Discipline 2004, The Social Principles, and The United Methodist Book of Resolutions 2004.

Once you have explored these resources, you are ready for **SOCIAL ACTION**.

Linda Young—lmyou2253@aol.com

2006 CONFERENCE LOVE OFFERING

An Undesignated Gift to Mission

"Celebrating the Diversity & Gifts of Young Women"

You may bring your Love Offering or your Local Unit's offering to Conference Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska, September 8-10, or send it directly to:

Sharon Smith
WNC Conference Treasurer
P. O. Box 903
Marion, NC 28752

Please make checks payable to:
Treasurer, WNCC UMW



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

Membership

What membership in United Methodist Women is to me.....

"Membership in the UMW is my mainstay, keeping me focused on what is most important--Christ as the center of my life." - Virginia Robinson

While waiting in line at Assembly in California, a lady and I were talking and she learned that I am conference chairperson for MNO. She said "Oh that's the most important office in UMW." She went on to say that it is too much for one person because it is really three different jobs in one. I agree that it is a **big** responsibility. While it can be "overwhelming" we can only address each part as we are able and remind our units that it is the responsibility of **all** members!

Nurturing is as important as recruiting! If we do not nurture the members we have sometimes they will just disappear and a year later we wonder where they went! It is very important to keep a close check on our membership rolls and make sure everyone is accounted for. Active members should take specific names to contact and assist in nurturing the inactive members.

At the School of Christian Mission, on Saturday afternoon, July 15, during Growth Opportunities, we will have an opportunity to come together and share ideas for nurturing membership. I hope all of you plan to attend and come with some good ideas to share.

It is encouraging and exciting to continue to receive your ideas of "what UMW is to me"... You are what makes it happen. We would love to hear from you.

"Membership in United Methodist Women is developing a creative, supportive fellowship with all UMW members" - Barbara Love

Linda Baity—lindabaity@wnireland.com

The School Committee is composed of: Dot Alvord (Dean), Sara Williams, Sara Messer, Martha Houser, Amy Johnson, Sandy Hieronymus, Dixie Sheff, Sharon Smith, Sherry Sink, Linda Young, Kris Peurifoy, Linda Baity, Bettie Sharpe Rowe, Karen Wilkerson, Vicki Walker, Lynn Sloan Barnes, and Rev. Mark Barden.

Media Specialists: Linda Reep, Sharon Quate.

MEET OUR STUDY LEADERS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Shalom- Saalam- Peace: Peace in the Bible and in Our Time

Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey

Bishop McCleskey, resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2004, was elected to the episcopacy in 1996. McCleskey served as bishop of the South Carolina Conference from 1996-2004.



Born in Atlanta, GA and educated in the schools of Tampa, FL., McCleskey received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Divinity from Duke University. Ordained a deacon in 1963 and an elder in 1966 in the WNC Conference, he received a Doctor of Ministry (1984) from Princeton Theological Seminary and honorary degrees from Claflin University, Erskine Seminary, and Wofford College.

Presently, he represents the Council of Bishops on the denomination's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, is vice-president of that board and chair of its Division of Higher Education.

Bishop McCleskey is married to Margaret Fowler McCleskey, and they have three grown children.

GEOGRAPHIC STUDY

India/Pakistan

Ms. Naomi Wray, Asheville NC

Naomi was born in Detroit, Michigan. She was an active member of the St. James Methodist Church. She studied Art and Art History at Wayne State University and Boston University.



She was commissioned as a short-term missionary by Women's Division as a Missionary to India in 1952. She was assigned to Leonard Theological College in Jabalpur, India where she taught many different courses related to art, use of media and visual aids, Christian art and creative worship. She married a fellow missionary, Fred Wray, in 1956. She was also commissioned as a full-term missionary to India in the same year.

The last ten years she was in India, she was Hostess and Manager of the Methodist Guest Home in Bombay, which was also the official Conference Center for the

Methodist Church in India.

Naomi has three children and currently resides at the Brooks-Howell home in Asheville, NC. There she arranges exhibitions of Christian art from India in seminaries, colleges and churches.

Ms. Nazgul William, Passaic NJ

Nazgul was born in Lahore, Pakistan. She is second to the youngest of six sisters and one brother. Naz attended Lucie Harrison Girls High School which was established for families who had converted to the Christian faith in early 1900s. This school was built by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



Naz came to the USA in May 1995 and completed her Business Administration degree in Georgia and a second degree in International Studies from Marymount Manhattan College in New York. Naz is very grateful to United Methodist Women who provide undesignated money to the Women's Division which enables people like her to be educated.

In April 2005 Naz was commissioned as the first Pakistani United Methodist deaconess. Her dream is to work at Brooks Howell Home where she served as an intern in 2004 and 2005.

Ms. Monica Christian, Lakeland TN

Monica is currently a student at Candler School of Theology. She is working on her Masters of Divinity as well as a Masters of Business Administration. Upon her graduation, Monica will be ordained as a deacon in the United Methodist Church as a church administrator. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Memphis in May 2003, majoring in English with a minor in Communications.



She has served the UMC in various ways. In her local church, she has served on various committees, such as the Nominating Committee and the Church Council. She has represented the Youth on the Memphis-Asbury District Council and was secretary for three years. She has also been on the Conference Council on Youth Ministries for four years as district representative and secretary/treasurer.

This will be Monica's second year to teach in a School of Christian Mission.

Dr. Shan Yohan, Decatur GA

Dr. Yohan was born and nurtured in India with Christian parents, converts from Islam and Hinduism. She was educated in India and the United States. She is a Former President of the North Georgia Conference UMW, a member of the SEJ Core Planning (Nominations) and a Director of Women's Division-General Board of Global Ministries. She had been an educational, inspirational and mission study leader/speaker since 1972. She is now a retired College Professor, and full-time available volunteer for church and community. At present she is involved with interfaith women, children, youth and families. She is a widow and has two sons and two lovely grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, reading, gardening and entertaining.



**GENERAL ISSUE STUDY
Globalization: Its Impact On
People's Lives**

Rev. In-Yong Lee, Durham NC

Rev. Lee came from South Korea for study in 1997. She finished M.Div. and Th.M at Duke Divinity School in 2000 and 2002, respectively. She is now in the Ph.D. program at Duke in the Religion Department in the area of theology and ethics. She is a third-year probationer in the elder track in the Western North Carolina Conference, and she is a part of the High Point District. She has been appointed to Duke University as a teaching fellow for an extension ministry since 2004. Rev. Lee lives in Durham with her husband, Hee-Soo Kim, and sons, Ju-Heung who is fourteen and Ju-Sung who is twelve.



Dr. Joan McGill, Charlotte NC

Joan received her B.S.N. from Case Western Reserve University, her M.S.N. from the University of Kentucky and her D.S.N. from the University of Alabama. She has been the Chair and Professor of the Vail Program of Nursing at Queens College in Charlotte since 1993. She attends Sharon UMC in Charlotte, where she is a member



of the United Methodist Women, the Missions Committee, and the Communities of Shalom Board. She has made numerous professional presentations on health care in Uganda and on general nursing topics.

Sandra Williamson, Greensboro NC

Sandra is a lifelong Methodist and a native of Columbia, S.C. where she attended the local Bethlehem Center as a preschooler. She graduated magna cum laude from Johnson C. Smith University in 1969. She received her Master's degree in History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1972 and taught there. In 1978 she & her husband accepted faculty appointments at NC A&T State University. She is presently the Assistant Director of the Honors Program. In 1995 she was a participant in a Fulbright Study Tour of China. She has accompanied groups of Honors students to London and Moscow and she serves as the Head Coach for the A&T Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Academic Team. She is the Secretary of the Board of the Guilford Battleground Company. Sandra is married to Dr. Alex Williamson, and they have two sons.



Rev. Dr. Mark Sills, Greensboro NC

Dr. Mark R Sills is a United Methodist clergyman. He holds degrees from Greensboro College, Duke University and Wesley Theological Seminary. During his ministerial career he was a parish minister, served as Executive Director of both High Point and Greensboro Urban Ministries, and was president of The Human Services Institute for twelve years. In January 1997, Dr. Sills became the founding Executive Director of Faith Action, an interfaith, multicultural agency serving Central North Carolina. Dr. Sills is married to Virginia Nelson Sills. They live in Randleman, enjoying being parents and grandparents.



Rev. Dr. Earl Wilson, Winston-Salem NC

Dr. Wilson is a native of Bolton, NC. He and his wife Doris have two young adult children, and one grandchild. Earl received his B.A. degree in Religion and Philosophy from Shaw University. He is also a graduate of Duke Divinity School

where he received his Master of Divinity Degree in 1973. He has done further studies at Ohio State University and Union



Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Earl is a member of the Western North Carolina Conference and senior pastor of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem where he has served since June 2003. He sees himself a "servant leader" in the church. He has served on the Board of Trustees for Brevard College and Pfeiffer University. He has also served as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference and the World Methodist Conference in Nairobi, Kenya and Brighton, England. Earl is not a stranger to the School of Mission. He has taught in the School numerous times.

**ONE-DAY OVERVIEW STUDY
LEADERS
India/Pakistan and Globalization**

Rev. Mark Barden, Charlotte NC

Rev. Barden was born into a Methodist parsonage family and lived as a child throughout Western North Carolina. He holds a B.S. degree in telecommunications, and an M.A. degree in Radio-Television and began a career in teaching at Murray State University. During his teaching career, Mark accepted the call to ordained ministry and returned to North Carolina and completed ministerial studies at Duke University. Mark was ordained deacon in 1986 and elder in 1990. He has pastored in several local churches, and since June 2000, has served as our Conference Director of Mission/Outreach. He has traveled to countries around the world to investigate and coordinate mission efforts of our conference. Mark's wife Barbara is Minister of Education at Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, and they have a son named Christopher.



Ms. Lynne Gilbert, Greensboro NC

A lifelong United Methodist, Lynne is the granddaughter of Methodist missionaries to Japan. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Certified Public Accountant by profession, currently serving as the Associate Treasurer for the Women's Division. She

is an active member of United Methodist Women, having served previously as Conference Vice President, Conference Treasurer, Business Manager for the School of Christian Mission, and as Assistant Dean and Business Manager for the South Atlantic Regional School of Christian Mission. She is currently serving on the conference Council on Finance and Administration, and was elected as a Western North Carolina Conference Delegate to the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.



WORKSHOP FOR LEADERS OF CHILDREN

Ms. Patti Ireland, Mooresville NC

Patti grew up in Charlotte, NC and received her degree in Nursing through Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing and The University of North Carolina in Charlotte. She married her husband, Scott, in 1989, and after having two children, moved to Wilmore, Kentucky while her husband completed his Seminary training. She now resides in Mooresville where she and her husband are starting a new United Methodist Church, Redeemer's Light UMC. She recently returned to school and completed a Master's of Christian Education at Pfeiffer University. While completing her studies, she traveled to Cambodia with Western NC Volunteers in Mission, teaching children and youth about Jesus Christ. She continues to work part-time as a nurse at Iredell Memorial Hospital in nearby Statesville.



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 at Winston-Salem State University, and a Masters in Early Childhood Ed. at 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



Sara Williams has served on the local, district and conference levels of the United Methodist Women. She has also been a study leader at the School of Christian Mission.

She has also served in many areas of the United Methodist Church. Currently she serves as Chair of Mission and Outreach in her local church, Prospect UMC in East Bend.

On the conference level of the UMC, she currently is a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and is on the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Children's Home.

She is married to David Williams. They have three children and four grandchildren.

BUSINESS MANAGER



Sara Messer lives in Thomasville, NC and is an active member of Pleasant Hill UMC. She is a past president of her local UMW unit and served four years as a treasurer of the Lexington District UMW. She

has worked for Dixon Hughes PLLC, a CPA firm, for the past 30 years. Sara is the current treasurer of the Lexington District Office of the UMC and the After School Care at Pleasant Hill UMC. She and her husband, Edwin, have been married for 25 years. They have a daughter, Whitney, who is a freshman at Trinity High School.

HOUSING MANAGER

Martha Houser is an active member of McKendree UMC in Lincolnton and has lived there all her life. She has served in various offices in UMW in her local unit, including President and Treasurer. She is now the President of the for the Gastonia District UMW, previously serving as the District Mission



Coordinator of Education and Interpretation. She has one daughter and one granddaughter.

DIRECTIONS TO GREENSBORO COLLEGE

From the North: From I-85. Follow I-85/I-40 into Greensboro. I-85 will split from I-40. Stay to the left and follow I-85 South to Holden Road Exit (#121), exit to the right. Turn right onto Holden Road.

*Follow Holden Road for ~4.8 miles to West Market Street. Turn right and go ~2.9 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: Take the Holden Road Exit (#121) off of I-85. Turn right onto Holden Road at the stoplight. 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/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.

PURPOSE

OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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

Spanish Translation Available at this year's School of Christian Mission!!! This is the second year that Spanish Translation will be offered at the School. The simultaneous Spanish translation will be available at the One-Day Overview Sessions for our non-English speaking attendees. (If you need this service, please note this on your registration form.)

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



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

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

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

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 below. You may also receive the **Conference Gram** free via email.

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