

Conference Gram



Volume 56, Number 3

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

June 2007

School of Christian Mission

“Sing Across The Walls”

Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina
July 12-15, 2007

*Spiritual Growth Study: “Music & Mission”

*Geographic Study: “Israel / Palestine”

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

*Youth Mission Day—Saturday, July 14th

Registration: May 1-June 22, 2007

Registration brochures are available from your District President, and on our website at: www.wncumw.org



“Sing Across The Walls”

(Interpretation of the Theme)

“I’m gonna live so God can use me” is the opening line of an African American spiritual.

As women in mission who have a *PURPOSE* which we strive to fulfill, we have sung the songs of mission for over a century. Songs of justice, love, mercy, and freedom have changed so many situations of hopelessness.

This year’s mission studies, Music and Mission, Israel/Palestine, and Globalization, present opportunities to continue the legacy of justice and freedom. We will struggle as we confront our mixed emotions concerning the walls and barriers that are being erected in parts of the world.

How do we sing across the walls? Walls isolate and separate for economic, social, political and/or religious purposes. What can a song do? It brings hope and gives courage. We are called to sing a song of hope and freedom across walls. We sing for the freedom of all people, not just ourselves. We sing of the Good News that God loves everyone. We sing the songs of hope that have the power to bring down walls of hatred and injustice.

Let our song be...

I’m gonna live so God can use me
I’m gonna work so God can use me
I’m gonna pray so God can use me
I’m gonna sing so God can use me
Anywhere Lord, Anytime!!!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Registration: Thursday, 2:00-5:30pm; Friday & Saturday, 8:00-10:30am

Discovery Room & Resource Room: Daily schedules

Opening Session: Thursday, 7:00pm

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

Friday PM Dinner: Music and Mission — theme dinner

Plenary-Israel/Palestine: Saturday evening, 7:00pm

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

Hands on Mission Opportunity: School Kits for Bethlehem Centers (more details on page 7)

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 and all registrations **must be postmarked** by June 22, 2007.

Spiritual Growth Study: “Music and Mission” Session times are: Thurs. 7:30pm, Fri. 9:00am and 7:30pm; Sat. 9:00am.

Geographic Study: “Israel/Palestine” 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: 4:15pm Friday only.

NEW!!! Youth Mission Day for Teen Women — Saturday, July 14, 2007. Time is 10:00am—4:00pm. Cost: \$15.00 for those teens not attending the school.

Change: Advanced Lay Speaker Certification will not be offered at this year’s school.

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

Questions: Call Sara Williams, Dean, School of Christian Mission. Her number is 336-699-8079.

OUR 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.



**Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women**

ANNUAL MEETING

**“Through The Eyes Of A
Child!”**

**September 7, 8, & 9, 2007
Lake Junaluska Assembly**

Hands-on Mission Project: Gift to Mission Cards

Mark your calendar!

**Leadership Training
for
District Officers**

October 13, 2007

**9:00 am - 12:30 pm
(No Lunch this year.)**

First UMC in Conover

As the District Nominating Committees work to complete the slate of district officers for 2007, please stress the importance of new and continuing officers attending this training.

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.

President—Amy Johnson

What better way to fulfill the **PURPOSE** of United Methodist Women than to attend the School of Christian Mission! This event has it all – a time for spiritual growth, opportunities to learn more about social issues, a time to nurture our membership, as well as opportunities to participate in mission.

To Know God – Everyone who attends the School of Christian Mission will participate in the spiritual growth study of “*God’s Mission, God’s Song.*” We will explore how the role of mission has evolved over the years through Bible study and the singing of our great mission hymns. We will leave with a renewed commitment to participate in God’s mission. Of course, there is always time for worship with our Morning Praise and opening plenaries each day.

Social Action – Each year, the studies make us aware of social issues and how the choices we make affect others. The studies of “*Israel and Palestine*” and “*Globalization*” will be no different! There will also be an opportunity to correspond with our legislators in a letter writing campaign.

Creative, Supportive Fellowship – It is always a blessing to renew old acquaintances and to make new friends. I’m excited about the return of Youth Day. These young women are the future of United Methodist Women. Let’s make a special effort to meet and greet them and let them know how much we appreciate their attendance.

Expand Concepts of Mission through PARTICIPATION in the Global Ministries of the Church – Our hands-on mission project is school kits for the Bethlehem Centers in Charlotte and Winston-Salem. The studies allow us to learn more about

our mission projects. Visit the Resource Room and the Discovery Room. Glean new ideas of how your local unit can be in mission.

And don’t forget about the Growth Opportunities on Saturday afternoon. Choose one of the options and expand your horizons.

You don’t have time to come for the whole weekend? Then join us either on Friday or Saturday for the one-day overview. Our ultimate goal is that you will experience a fact-filled, inspirational weekend that will enable you to return to your local unit and fan the flame for mission.

I look forward to seeing you there.

“As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God’s name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care, we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.”
- Ruth Duck

ideere620@aol.com

**Vice President
Sandy Hieronymus**

Part of our **PURPOSE** is to develop a creative, supportive fellowship. What better way to do this than to attend UMW events? Our circle and unit meetings draw women in the local church together. We expand our fellowships by attending district and conference events. The School of Christian Mission (SCM) takes place in July. The SCM is a great place to worship, study, fellowship, and enjoy being with women from around our conference. Program ideas are in abundance at the SCM. You may choose to have one of the studies in your church or district. Portions of the studies may be used for short programs. I personally have made many friends through the years whom I met at the SCM.

The LUV program gives district and conference officers the opportunity to be with local units. A visit counts as Mission Today

criteria #20. Looking for a good program idea or someone to present a program? Contact a district or conference officer. We can help you find program resources and may also be available to present a program to your group. We would love to visit and be a part of your gathering. No unit is too small for a visit.

Housing reservations for Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska may be sent after July 2. The next issue of the Conference Gram will be full of information about Annual Meeting. Plan to attend and bring many of your friends. ***Through the Eyes of a Child*** is our theme as we celebrate who we are as United Methodist Women. It is a joy and privilege to serve God through UMW. Pray for our programs and ministry.

sandyh46@aol.com

**Program Resources
Betty Sharpe Rowe**

Do you have your books packed for that much needed vacation? Of course, I know you have been reading all winter, but now’s the time to move into spring and continue your reading, whether it be in a nice relaxing atmosphere on the beach, by the lake or just at home. Don’t forget to carry a book wherever you go. In fact, carry two, so if you finish one, you can start another. As I was riding the bike at the Y today and reading, someone next to me mentioned that was a good idea. Someone even told me they read in the grocery line. Just proves that one should never be without a book on their person!

Of the 2007 books, I have read *God’s Politics*, powerful reading and a bonus book. *But Lord, I Was Happy Shallow* and *Traditional Beliefs of United Methodists*. While these are all very different in text, much can be derived from all three. You also have until the **end of this year** to complete your 2002 books for credit. This is referenced on page 4 of the Reading Program Booklet. We have so many books

on so many topics, I hope you'll take advantage of the enrichment you'll receive by reading. It is a gleaming of knowledge!

Our *PURPOSE* as United Methodist Women is revealed by studying, reading, learning and discerning God's message to us. The School of Christian Mission is just the place for you to accomplish this. I'm excited about this year's topics, *Music and Mission* and *Israel/Palestine*. If you haven't taken *Globalization*, I can recommend that to demonstrate our connectedness to all parts of the world. *A Song to Sing, A Life To Live*, a reading program book, is a resource for *God's Mission, God's Song*. I will have study books available at registration and also in the Resource Room with other materials.

Available now on our web site, www.wnccumw.org, is a wealth of information pertaining to Program Resources, i.e., 5 year Reading Lists, information about the Children's Reading Program with book-marks designed by Michelle Hill and a new brochure courtesy of an idea by Rev. Sarah Davis.

You have responded so well to our Children's Reading Program and I am very appreciative of that. As of February 20, 2007, it was reported to me that 231 children had participated in 2006. **WOW!** Keep those children reading! After a child has read 5 books, submit their names to me and I'll issue their certificates as quickly as I can. Many county libraries have children and adult books. Ask your local librarian for help. For further availability of resources, you may contact the Mission Resource Center at 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, Texas 75247-3191. Telephone # is 1-800-305-9857 and fax # is 1-214-630-0079. The E—Store website address is www.missionresourcecenter.org.

It's not only important that we read *Response and New World Outlook*, but a necessity in order to be aware of the extraordinary presence of United Methodist Women in the world. Let me know how I can be of help you.

cnbsrowe@northstate.net

Spiritual Growth **Kris Peurifoy**

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord: let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95:1-2.

The book of Psalms is full of musical references: shouting for joy, praising God, making music with various instruments. Music, it seems, has always been with us. We attach memories to certain songs and we can even remember when we first heard a song – where we were and what we were doing. Music can make us happy and music can make us sad. Don and Emily Saliers, in their book "A Song to Sing, A Life To Live" look at how music also can become a spiritual practice. It can

help us as individuals to know ourselves and to become who we are through the music we experience. It has been called the universal language, a language which allows us all to come together as one, if only for a short time. Music, without words, can help us to relax, to feel energetic, to want to dance...but ah! add the words and a whole new dimension is added to the musical experience! This summer, the Spiritual Growth study at the School of Christian Mission is called "Music and Mission." It looks at how hymns have helped to shape our history both as United Methodists and as a society and how they continue to do so, for music is continually evolving. The study will be offered not only as a part of the four day mission experience, but also as part of a one day overview, offered both Friday and Saturday. I hope you are planning to attend what promises to be a most rewarding and informative experience.

In case you haven't heard, our Spiritual Growth Retreats are coming up in June at Lake Junaluska. Retreat I is June 15/16 and Retreat II is June 16/17. **Please note that registration is from 12:30-3:45 for each retreat and that it will be downstairs in the Harrell Center. New for this year is a \$5.00 registration fee if you are staying on the grounds and \$10.00 if you are not.** Please call 1-800-222-4930 for lodging availability.

Our spiritual growth is contingent on stretching our minds, seeking new experiences and spending time with our Lord. Have you done some growing this year?

Krispeurifoy@aol.com

Virginia Robinson **Leader Development**

Greetings to the Western North Carolina Conference UMW!!! By the time you receive this issue of the Conference Gram 2007 will be half over. I hope the first six months has been as great as mine has been. Don't forget to mark Saturday, October 13th as you plan your district's calendar for 2007. District Officer Training will take place on this date at First United Methodist Church in Conover. Because of the number of evaluations from the district officers, the Leader Development Committee, along with the Executive Committee, has decided to modify the schedule for training.

Gathering will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the closing will be at 12:30 p.m. There will be no lunch this year. Program Resources will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 9:15 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. until 12:45 p.m. Thank you for completing your evaluations. They are very important to the Executive Committee.

Don't forget to make your "LUV" visits to the local units. You still have time to have 100% visiting in your district. Supporting the local units makes United Methodist Women stay alive!

I look forward to continue working with you as your chairperson of Leader Development. Great things do happen when all United Methodist Women work together to make our *PURPOSE* come alive!

varobinson55@yahoo.com

Education & Interpretation **Sherry Sink**

Are you looking for some summer fun?...Are you looking for something that is exciting and stimulates your mind?...Are you looking to refresh your spirit and a little fellowship mixed in?

Well... **STOP LOOKING!!**
We have the answer!

It is the School of Christian Mission at Greensboro College in July!!!

The School of Christian Mission is a major source of information on current issues that affect our everyday lives.

Our general issue study is on Globalization: Its Impact On Peoples Lives. This subject holds a wealth of information that pertains to us and our neighbors around the world.

The geographic study takes us to Israel and Palestine to learn about the history and complex relationships between Israel and Palestine.

The spiritual growth study is Music and Mission. This study reminds us of the passion brought to mission work by those who led the way.

Don't wait another minute! Make your plans to attend and add some **SPICE** to your summer. Come join us!!!! (Attending SCM fulfills Mission Today Criteria #2-At least one member of the unit (other than a conference of district officer) will attend the School of Christian Mission).

Sherika12754@aol.com

Looking for your next Mission Moment? It can be found in the February 2007 issue of *Response*. You have two you can chose from.

1. Use excerpts from *John Wesley on the Danger of Riches*, pp.35-37 sub titles *Many Temptations* and *A Living Example* with attention to the photos of "sale shopping" and checking labels for ingredients and price.

2. Remember Ruth Daugherty, speaker at the 2004 Annual Meeting? Read her story on *Women Who Tithe* on page 17 of that same issue. Ruth will be one of our study leaders on Israel and Palestine at the School of Christian Mission this year.

Treasurer-Sharon Smith

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 2007 Financial Goal is **To Increase Giving in the Gift to Mission Channel by 10%**.

What is **Gift to Mission**? A Gift to Mission honors someone in her or his name with an undesignated Gift to Mission of at least \$5.00. Gift to Mission is one of the five channels of Mission Giving. Mission Giving supports the total program of mission carried out by United Methodist Women. With your gift, you honor someone, and you make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth...around the world.

Your undesignated Mission Giving helps to make mission possible all around the world through the support of mission projects. 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.

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.**

Read *Response Magazine* to learn more about the mission stories and see how our Undesignated Mission Giving is helping around the world. **YOU make Mission possible through your Mission Giving.**



YOU make Mission possible through your Mission Giving.

kitty5255@yahoo.com



Conference
Annual
Meeting

September
7-9, 2007

at
Lake
Junaluska

2007 CONFERENCE LOVE OFFERING

A Gift to Mission Giving

“Celebrating Mission Giving by Promoting World Peace”

You may bring your Love Offering or your Local Unit's offering to Conference Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska, September 7-9 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

Social Action—Linda Young

HOW DO YOU DEFINE ACTION?

Webster defines action as a noun meaning movement, behavior, a thing done, lawsuit. In my reading I came across another up close and personal meaning of action. **Action—how we live what we say we believe.** Actions are more relevant and important than what we say. There has to be transformation through action. Spiritual, social, and political transformation is more likely to happen through actual engagement than through seeking to attain correct belief. Bill Phipps-International President of the World Conference of Religions for Peace-wrote “Insisting that correct belief results in spiritual and social transformation often leads to self-righteousness, arrogance, and living in a non-existent, idealized, and theoretical world. It also cuts one off from marvelous insights, wisdom, truths, and the experience of those who believe and think differently.”

Great and rich is the legacy we bring. Many are the gifts we offer to each other. Jointly we are a tower of wisdom and a fellowship of strength. Male and female, he created them and blessed them. The God of the Bible is a lover – a lover of the alien, the orphan, and the widow. The greatest challenge in mission today is to see God's image in one who is not in our image. The Bible is saturated with instructions encouraging us to love God with every fiber of our being and love our neighbor as thyself. To love your neighbor requires the host in us to understand the “other”, and even take on a certain amount of “foreignness”. In short, the moral question is “Have you hosted the other?” Matthew 25: 31-46 is not about what you say about God, but what you do to your neighbor. It is not about theology, but neighborlogy.

The final test of a person, a local church,

and nation is summed up in Jesus' words in the judgment of the nations: I was a stranger. YOU WELCOMED ME.

I encourage you to keep informed and abreast of the many issues and ‘ills’ facing women, children, and youth today. Put the website, email address, telephone number, fax number of your member of Congress, near your computer. Heightened security measures have dramatically increased the time it takes for a letter sent by post to reach a congressional office. Elected officials' offices prefer electronic communications for constituent contact. Communicating with Congress is vital to the success or failure of a bill.

We will share more of how to be UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL during our growth opportunities at the School of Mission in July at Greensboro College. See you there.

Till we meet, remember to:

Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character. Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

lmyou2253@aol.com

ATTENTION TEENS!!!!

SUMMER FUN FOR YOU!!!!

Are you looking for something **different** to do with your time this summer?...

Are you looking to put some **LIFE** into your summer?...

Are you looking for “**What's COOL**” this summer?..

Join us on Saturday, July 14, at the School of Christian Mission for a day of activities, study, learning opportunities and FUN as we look at the issue of **The Big G**—the Youth Mission Study on Globalization. Youth Day starts at 10:00am.

(Teen women who are registered for the entire school may participate in the Youth Mission Day on Saturday at no extra charge.)

What is globalization?...How are we affected?...What can we do?

Come join us as we journey together to find the answers.

Remember the Prayer Calendar is an excellent resource to use for your devotions at circle or unit meetings. Do something different.....try acting out the story or use a globe or map to show where the story is located.

Membership—Linda Baity

By the time you receive this Newsletter almost half of 2007 will be behind us. Are your local units on the right track in your membership efforts? Do you know which units are missing at the district events? It is a good possibility these are the ones that need some encouragement or a visit. Now would be a good time of year to check the attendance records. Make your executive committee aware and plan a visit or at least a telephone call through your shepherdess list. This is an opportunity to nurture the local units and strengthen our overall membership in the district and conference.

We have some very exciting conference events ahead of us. School of Christian Mission is just around the corner. Remember our one-day classes for anyone that cannot attend the whole school. Especially remind the units to encourage the teens in their church to attend, even if they do not have a teen circle. It has been a few years since a class for "teens only" has been offered. I look forward to sharing in the leadership with Sherry Sink. Through the Youth Mission Study on Globalization, we will learn how our lives are affected by the work of women and children all across the world. We will be learning together in fun and creative ways. This will not be your "typical" classroom. Please get the word out and encourage the teens to attend. School of Christian Mission is one of the best educational tools in defining the *PURPOSE* of United Methodist Women.

Continue to seek new ways to grow your membership and share your ideas. Remember Phil. 4:13 "for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power."

lindabaity@wnireland.com

The School Committee is composed of: Sara Williams (Dean), Michelene Mathews, Sara Messer, Brenda Alexander, Amy Johnson, Sandy Hieronymus, Dixie Sheff, Sharon Smith, Sherry Sink, Linda Young, Kris Peurifoy, Linda Baity, Bettie Sharpe Rowe, Karen Wilkerson, Dr. Lillie Jones, Lynn Sloan Barnes, Pat Gilbert.

Music Leaders: Doris Vincent, Patricia Stewart, and Jackie Kerr

Media & Technical Specialists: Linda Reep, Sharon Quate, and Lynne Gilbert

School Nurse: Patricia Settle

MEET OUR STUDY LEADERS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Music and Mission

Lynn Sloan Barnes, Elkin, NC—Lynn is a graduate of Methodist College, and is a retired Spanish teacher. She was commissioned a Deaconess in The United Methodist Church in April of 2005, and is currently serving as Director of Outreach Ministries



at First UMC of Elkin. As a deaconess, she started the Tri-County Health Resource Center, which helps provide food, medical care, and coats for persons in need. She is an active member of United Methodist Women, and is currently the President of the North Wilkesboro District. Lynn is a certified lay speaker, and has taught at several conference Schools of Christian Mission. She has also made numerous trips to Bolivia on medical mission teams. She was honored this year as the April 2007 "2 Those Who Care" recipient by WFMY News 2. She is married to Wayne Barnes and they reside in Elkin, North Carolina.

GEOGRAPHIC STUDY

Israel / Palestine



Ruth Daugherty, Lancaster, PA—Ruth is a freelance educator/consultant who has been involved most of her life in church-related activities. She has served in various offices in United Methodist Women including conference president and president of Women's Division, and as vice president of the General Board of Global Ministries. Ruth has often been a study leader in regional and conference Schools of Christian Mission, and has traveled extensively throughout the world visiting areas of mission and leading workshops. She is the author of *United Methodist Women in Mission*, and numerous other resources for United Methodist Women. Ruth is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College, and she has received Doctor of Humanities degrees from Albright College and Shenandoah University. She lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and has three children and four grandchildren.



Rev. Dr. Lillie Jones, Charlotte, NC - Lillie is currently serving on the conference staff as Ministries Team Coordinator for Nurture, Ethnic and Justice Ministries. Prior to joining the conference staff, she served as pastor at the Faith-St. Paul United Methodist Church in Mooresville. Before her call to the ministry, Dr. Jones worked over thirty years in public education and education administration. She served as Interim Superintendent of the Guilford County Schools in 1999-2000, and held Deputy & Associate Superintendent positions there from 1993-1999. She holds an undergraduate degree from Bennett College, graduate degrees from A&T State University, Virginia Polytechnic

Institute & State University, and a Masters of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary. She and her husband Fred have two grown children and three grandchildren.



Patricia Wiseman, Greensboro, NC—A native of Guilford County, Pat is a graduate of Bennett College, NC A&T State University, and UNC-Greensboro. She also pursued further studies at the University of Miami in Ohio and at UCLA. She 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. An active United Methodist Woman, she served as Dean of the School of Christian Mission for 2003 and 2004, and served as a study leader for the Public Education mission study. She is a past Historian of the WNCC UMW.

Rev. Greg Dickens, High Point, NC—Greg is pastor at Oak Hill UMC in High Point. He is a graduate of East Carolina



University and received his Master's of Divinity (MDiv) from Emory University in Atlanta, GA in 1986. He was ordained elder in the Western North Carolina Conference in 1988. Greg has a heart for mission and a passion for the plight of the Christians in Palestine. He has made several trips to the Holy Land and has worked in Palestinian refugee camps. Greg is married to Marian Yvonne Taylor.

Rev. Dr. Tom Sigmon, Charlotte, NC—Tom is a graduate of Lenoir Rhyne College, Duke Divinity School (MDiv), and Drew University (DMin). He retired in 2005 after serving appointments across the Western North Carolina Conference for over forty years, including as District Superintendent for the Gastonia District, and as Conference Director of Connectional



Ministries. As a pastor, Tom has always worked actively with United Methodist Women. He is trained as an Interim Minister and has led many Consecration Stewardship events for local churches. He also serves as a consultant in Discipleship Ministries with a focus on Stewardship Education. His doctorate is in membership development for larger membership churches. In retirement, he and his wife LaVon enjoy spending time at their mountain home at Lake Junaluska, traveling, and spending time with their grandchildren.

Rev. Joe Tarpley, Shelby, NC— Joe is pastor at Sharon UMC in Shelby. He received his undergraduate degree from Kennesaw State University and his Master's of Divinity (MDIV) from Emory University in Atlanta, GA in 1999. Joe was ordained elder in the Western North Carolina Conference in 2004. Joe is involved in mission and ministry in many different ways. He is married to the Rev. Veranita Alvord and they have two children.



GENERAL ISSUE STUDY

Globalization: Its Impact On People's Lives

Rev. William Garrard, Hickory, NC—Bill Garrard grew up in north Georgia, eastern North Carolina, and Vieques, Puerto Rico. His father was a United Methodist pastor and missionary. Bill graduated with a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Georgia and later obtained a Masters of Social Work from UGA. Bill worked for over 20 years in social work in public welfare social services in Georgia and as a teacher of social work at Warren Wilson College near Asheville. In 1993 Bill obtained a Master's of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. Bill's ministry interests are in the areas of Hispanic ministry, outreach and missions, spiritual formation, and pastoral care. Bill is married to Frances, and they have three children.



Dr. 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. Sandra is married to Dr. Alex Williamson, and they have two sons.



ONE-DAY OVERVIEW STUDY LEADERS

Music & Mission Israel/Palestine

Irma Ellwanger, Charlotte, NC—A lifelong United Methodist, Irma is a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Charlotte, where she has served in numerous leadership roles. She has been and active member of United Methodist Women for 45 years, and has served on local, district and conference mission teams, including service as Charlotte District President, Conference Leadership Development Chairperson, and Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator. She is currently serving as Chairperson of the Conference Nominating Committee. She served on the staff of Bethlehem Center Charlotte for many years as the Director of Church-Agency Relations/Community Outreach. Irma is married to George Ellwanger, and they have four children and ten grandchildren.



Amy Johnson, Tobaccoville, NC—Amy is a member of Faith UMC in Rural Hall, where she serves as Missions Chairperson and President of United Methodist Women. She is the Administrative Assistant to the Winston-Salem District Superintendent, which allows her to merge her love of secretarial work with her love for the Church. Amy has a passion for the work of United Methodist Women. She has served in several capacities on the district level: Committee on Nominations, Secretary, Membership, and District President. On the Conference Level, she served as Spiritual Growth Coordinator, member of the Committee on Nominations, Treasurer, and is currently serving in her second year as Conference President. Amy and her husband Paul have a daughter, who just gave birth to their first grandchild on May 16th.



Edward Peurifoy, Concord, NC—Edward Peurifoy is a member of Forest Hill United Methodist Church where he has served as a Sunday school teacher for an adult class for the past 37 years. He has been on numerous hurricane related mission trips and is presently the Salisbury District Disaster Relief Coordinator. He is a regular blood platelet donor for the American Red Cross and tutors Hispanic children in



an after school program. He likes water skiing, traveling, and taking his five grandchildren to the beach.

Kris Peurifoy, Concord, NC—Kris Peurifoy is the Western North Carolina Conference UMW Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth. She is a member of Forest Hill UMC in Concord, NC. She and her husband Edward have two children, both of whom live in Concord, and five grandchildren. In addition to her conference responsibilities, she currently is also circle chair, advisor to a teen circle, helps to tutor Hispanic children and participates in both the chancel and handbell choirs. "The UMW has had a major influence in my growth as a Christian, both spiritually and theologically. I am proud to be a member!"



WORKSHOP FOR LEADERS OF CHILDREN

Sandy Hieronymus, Charlotte, NC—Sandy is a native of Kentucky and a lifelong Methodist. For over twenty years, Sandy has been a Pre-K teacher at a United Methodist church. She is a certified lay speaker. She has held various offices in the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women on the local, district and conference levels. Before taking her current position as the WNCC UMW Vice President, Sandy served four years as the Charlotte District Lay Leader and four years as the Charlotte District UMW President. She currently serves on the Conference Ministry Advisory Council and Aldersgate Retirement Community Board of Advisors. Sandy enjoys teaching all ages. In her free time, she likes reading, arts and crafts, and being a "beach bum." She believes the greatest gift we can give our children is to give them God. She and her husband, Gerry, have three grown sons.



YOUTH MISSION EVENT FOR TEEN WOMEN

LEADERS

Sherry Sink, High Point, NC is the current Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation for the WNCC-UMW. Sherry has been actively involved with youth ministry for several years now. Her energy and spirit are contagious. Sherry coordinates the "Hands On Mission" projects at



Conference UMW events. She creatively inspires the women in our conference to make our hands on mission opportunities a wonderful experience for the giver as well as the receiver.

Linda Baity, Yadkinville, NC is the Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach for the WNCC-UMW. She is past president of the North Wilkesboro District. Linda organized one of the first teen circles of UMW in this conference and continues to sponsor this group of young women at Yadkinville United Methodist Church.



MEET OUR SCHOOL OFFICERS

DEAN OF SCHOOL



Sara Williams, East Bend, NC—Sara 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.

ASSISTANT DEAN



Michelene Mathews, Charlotte, NC is a member of St. Marks United Methodist Church. She is active not only in her local unit but in the Charlotte District of United Methodist Women. Michelene has served as Mission Coordinator for Education

and Interpretation and is currently Secretary for Program Resources in addition to her duties as Assistant Dean for the School of Christian Mission. Michelene is employed by Wachovia Bank in Charlotte.

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 sophomore at Trinity High School.

HOUSING MANAGER

Brenda Alexander, Charlotte, NC—Brenda is an active member of Calvary



United Methodist Church where she serves as President of United Methodist Women, Chair of the Outreach Committee, Communion Steward, and member of Staff Parish. She is a past President and Vice President of the Charlotte District UMW.

On the Conference level, she served on the Committee on Nominations and two years as Chair. Currently, she is serving on the WNCC Church and Society Committee and has served on various Charlotte District committees and as a member of the Bethlehem Center Board of Directors. She retired from the Chevrolet Division of General Motors after twenty years and has been employed at Sonic Automotive for eight years. She is married to Ted Alexander and has two sons.

DIRECTIONS TO GREENSBORO COLLEGE

Greensboro College is easily accessible from all directions, using several different major highways, including Interstates 85 and 40. **Complete directions, including parking information, will be sent to each person who registers for the school.** And, complete directions are available on our website at www.wnccumw.org.



Hands-on Mission Opportunity for the School of Christian Mission

School Kits for the Bethlehem Centers in Charlotte and Winston-Salem

Two types of School Kits Needed For Our Bethlehem Centers:

Elementary Kit:

- 1- pair Blunt Scissors
- 1- pack of Glue Sticks
- 1- pack of Pencils & Sharpener
- 1- pack of 24 Crayons
- 1- pack of 8 Washable Markers
- 1- 1" 3 Ring Binder
- 1- pack 150ct Wide Rule Notebook Paper
- 1- pack of 12 Colored Pencils
- 1- pack of 50ct-Construction Paper (9 x 12 sheets)

Middle/High School Kit:

- 1- 2" 3 Ring Binder
- 1- pack 150ct College Ruled Notebook Paper
- 3- 70pg College Ruled Composition Books
- 1- pack of Glue Sticks
- 1- pack of Pencils & Sharpener
- 1- pack of Ballpoint Pens
- 1- pack of 12 Markers
- 1- pack of 4 Highlighters
- 3- Folders
- 1- pack of Divider Tabs

Place all supplies in a two gallon Ziploc bag and label the bag *Elementary or Middle/High School*. If you bring multiple kits, it would be helpful if you could bring them in a box for easier handling.

Remember to involve your whole church in this Hands-on Mission Project.

Each kit will make a difference in the life of a child at our Bethlehem Centers!! Remember YOU make mission possible!!!!

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**

2007

- June 7-10 UMC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
- June 15-16/16-17 WNCC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreats, Lake Junaluska
- July 12-15 WNCC UMW School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College
- September 7-9 WNCC UMW Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska
- October 13 WNCC UMW Officer Training for District Officers, First UMC in Conover

2008

- April 4-6 Southeastern Jurisdiction Meeting—Hampton VA “Called By Name”
- April 22-May 2 General Conference, Fort Worth TX

Web Site Address: www.wnccumw.org—Lynne Gilbert maintains the web site. You are invited to send her articles and photos for the web site. Just remember our initials!! **Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women**

Join Our Conference Email List!! To receive conference event information & updates, the Conference Gram, etc: send an email to Lynne Gilbert (lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net) or Karen Wilkerson (kwilkerson@charter.net), giving your name, email address, and district name. Join Now!!

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. Anyone other than those listed above, may use the form below to receive a copy. You may also choose to receive the **Conference Gram** via email.

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