



# The BEACON

IROQUOIS RIVER DISTRICT UMW

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**MISSION IN ACTION**  
**Iroquois River District UMW**  
**Spring Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 19, 2011**  
**Sullivan United Methodist Church**

**Hands-on-Project—School kits for Haiti**  
**Further information on cover**

# President's Perspectives

## FAITH, HOPE, LOVE IN ACTION— WHAT IS OUR MISSION THIS YEAR?

One of my favorite scriptures that I try to pattern my life after is Micah 6:8— "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

**Do Justice.** What is your local UMW doing to promote justice and what does it mean to do justice? I believe doing justice is when we stand up for the rights of others. We bring justice when we support the women of Sudan and Liberia in starting small businesses, educating them on how to keep their families healthy, supporting schools for girls.

**Love Kindness.** What have you or I done recently to make a positive difference in the lives of others that you would not have done if it were not for

our relationship with Christ? It's not enough to say "Good luck—have a good life" to someone asking for help. Jesus tells us that if we do it for the least of these, we do it for Him. Yes, we bring lots of soap, toothbrushes and gift cards for Cunningham and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and other UMW projects. And that's great! We are showing our love and compassion to those in need. But, what about face-to-face contact with those in our community that we might not want to have real contact with?

**Walk Humbly With Our God.** There are so many ways we can show our love for God with good deeds and working for equality for all people, poor, immigrants, other skin colors or nationalities. To really be someone God can use to help transform the world, we must pray, study the Bible, spend time in meditation alone and with others. We must develop relation-

ships with our sisters in Christ and then invite others to join us in learning what God would have us do.

God is calling each one of us to make a difference, to serve and to help. My challenge to you is to just say "Yes!"

My best wishes to you all in this New Year.

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# The Secretary's Pen

Hi there!

So far I've received all but three UMW unit officers lists for 2011. They are as follows:

Collison  
Danville First  
Hoopeston

Presidents and Secretaries, please send me those lists as soon as possible because now that Christmas is over I'm going to devote the next few weeks to

getting the 2011 district directories ready. Thank you!

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# FROM THE FOX DEN

Colossians 1: 1-6

"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in Heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth."

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! to ALL of you who filled out the evaluations at our Fall UMW meeting on September 18, 2010 at Savoy UMC. Your officers appreciate your input with so many wonderful comments about the day, ideas for future meetings and hands-on projects. What a thrill and an experience to read your comments! Thank you for taking the time to fill out the evaluation forms.

Do you like to travel? It is not easy today in our cars or airports. Why do you do it? Our cars are packed with this 'n that. The airports check you and your luggage. Have you missed a flight? We love to be with our families during the holidays. We love having you be a part of the UMW and joining us for our meetings. In 2011 we know our Spring and Fall meeting dates. Our Spring meeting will be March 19 at Sullivan. The Fall Meeting will be September 24 at Villa Grove. We want YOU to be a part of the group of women who have a PURPOSE.

Ideas are coming my way for programs for our Spring and Fall meetings. Thanks to the churches who have volunteered their facilities and programs. The meetings are for US to continue to grow in our mission work. Mark your calendar NOW for March 19. We will be focusing on missions. Also we will be doing a

hands-on project for Haiti. Come and join us as we gather as a group of women to expand doing God's work.

Psalms 136: 1-3

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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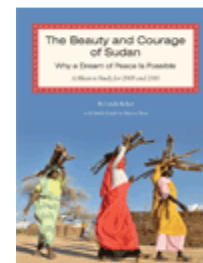
## The Beauty and Courage of Sudan

Ladies of Iroquois River District United Methodist Women:

If you did not get the chance to attend the Study of Sudan at the School of Christian Missions in 2010, I have a program prepared and would love to give it during one of your meetings

this year. The program lasts about one hour, with printed material and slides. If you are interested please call me at 217-840-3617 or 217-834-3617.

Bobby Walker



# Treasury Notes from Nina

Hello, Ladies! I would like to thank everyone for turning in their projected budget for 2011.

At the Personal Growth Retreat in October we collected an offering of \$149.00. Half of this will go to missions, (\$74.50), one-fourth will go to Cunningham Children's Home (\$37.24) and the other one-fourth (\$37.25) will go to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.

I would like to make a correction to the offering from our Fall Meeting on September 18. The checks were added twice.

The correct total was \$840.81. It was also divided in the same manner: half to missions (\$420.41), one-fourth (\$210.20) to Cunningham and one-fourth to Lessie Bates Davis NH (\$210.20).

In the last quarter of 2010 we received \$25,814.90 towards our district's pledge. The final total is \$62,866.19. This means unfortunately we were \$3,133.81 short of our goal of \$66,000.00.

Please remember each year the deadline for me to receive your funds is in late November. Any money received after that date will be carried over to the next year. If you want to meet all of the goals for either Rainbow or 5 Star you will need to have your remittances to me before that November date. Thank you all for your generosity throughout the year. God bless you all.

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# Education and Interpretation

## Five Points That Count

As your unit completes the Mission Today's Goal Report each year, remember the five points of becoming a Five-Star Unit:

- 1) Pledge to Mission—the portion of each unit's budget set as a goal to send through district and conference treasurers to the Women's Division for support of mission programs beyond its own community.
- 2) Special Mission Recognition—An individual or a unit may make a gift to honor someone in the amounts of \$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,000 and for each gift, a certificate and a gold pin (optional) are provided for the honoree.

- 3) Gift to Mission—A gift of \$5 or more for mission made in honor of any individual and a card may be sent to the honoree.
- 4) Gift in Memory—Gifts for mission may be made in memory of any member or friend, in any amount of \$5 or more. A Gift in Memory card may be sent to the family of the deceased.
- 5) World Thank Offering—An additional monetary gift given out of gratitude for God's abundance and in celebration of the joys of life. A World Thank Offering program is included in each year's program book.

Together, as United Methodist Women, we can use these five channels to reach our units' goals. Paul's promise to the church at Corinth still applies for us today: *"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity."*

(2 Corinthians 9:11)

Carol Christy  
Education and Interpretation  
Coordinator (2010)

# Cunningham Children's Home

This past year was a great year for Iroquois River District and giving to our several missions. Of course, Cunningham Children's Home is appreciative of everything that is collected for them. They were not disappointed in September. Roberta and I are always amazed at the quantity we collect. United Methodist Women's units and the United Methodist churches always work together to make Christmas a wonderful season at CCH. 2010 was just as blessed as the years before. Thank you to everyone for all you do for the staff and kids at Cunningham Children's Home.



Remember two important dates in 2011. April 8 and 9 are the dates for the Festival of Quilts 2011. Start thinking now about your donations of quilts and various craft items.

The Bible verse that is used at Cunningham often is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts I have for you, said the Lord. Thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a hope." Our Lord is prevalent in the care and love and teachings that the children receive each day. Let us all remember these youth and children in our thoughts, work and prayers. Let us allow God to use us as He sees fit

in our mission work with Cunningham Children's Home.

We wish you all a Happy New Year. We pray that you will all have a restful winter season and be ready for a beautiful spring.

God's blessings to all,

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# Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

On behalf of the children, families and adults served by Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, we would like to thank everyone who donated time, funds, gifts and more to our ministry during the holiday season. With your help we were able to make this a very special holiday for the community residents. Each year Neighborhood House works with Catholic Urban Programs to provide toys to area families. This past year we were able to give away hundreds of toys to children in our community. In addition Neighborhood House works with the United Way of Greater

St. Louis for the 100 Neediest program in which area residents tell their story and are awarded cash grants during the holidays. The families may also be adopted by individuals, families or companies. This holiday we had a number of families that were adopted. It was great to see the smiles on the faces of those families, knowing their children would have gifts for the holiday. It was truly heartwarming! A number of children were adopted through the Christmas giving program of a local United Methodist Church. For the past 3 years this church has provided gifts for 35

Teen Reach participants. The 3rd Annual Banquet held in November was a success! Thanks to all the donated baskets for the silent auction the agency raised over \$2,000. Planning begins soon for the 2011 banquet and if you are interested in helping please let us know.

At this time we have not heard about the state budget and if there will be cuts. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Lisa Graves  
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

# Social Action

Hello! I am your new District Social Action Coordinator, Patty Russell. I am a Lawrence County native, EIU graduate, retired elementary teacher (33 years in 4th grade), former Tuscola UMW President and now Membership Chair. After attending Assembly 2010 in St. Louis I am even more passionate about our UMW work. I've always had compassion for "the least of these" in society, so this job is a good fit for me. It is hard to narrow the priorities for there are numerous worthy causes, but we are to focus on these three: Environment/Think Green, Women's Health and Wellness, and Charter for Racial Justice.

1. RECYCLE paper, metals, plastic, electronics. Take your own cloth shopping bag and keep some extras in the car. Reduce trash by composting leaves, grass cuttings, vegetable peelings, seeds, tea leaves and coffee

grounds with the filters, no cooked food, grease, or milk products. Turn occasionally and watch it decompose, then use on flowers, gardens, or around trees to cut down on mowing so closely.

2. IMPROVE WOMEN'S HEALTH — Maternal mortality has declined since the late 1980's by 52% in Egypt, 41% in Honduras, and 30% in Guatemala. Most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are not succeeding in reducing maternal mortality. Zimbabwe and Malawi actually have an increased rate of maternal mortality, likely due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the U.N. Department of Public Information, "more than 350,000 women die annually from complications during pregnancy or childbirth, 99% in developing countries and every year more than 1 million children are left motherless." Even in the United States, there are still too many women without proper care, in

spite of the fact that "the child survival and maternal health portion of the U.S. Government budget for fiscal year 2010 was \$555 million"! To learn more, check <http://www.unicef.org/maternalhealth/index558.htm>

3. CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE—Help eliminate all forms of institutional racism in the ministry of the church, deal honestly with existing racist attitudes, increase efforts to recruit women of all races into the membership of UMW. Because Racial Justice is a biblical, leadership, community, and public-policy issue, we need to address it and ensure equal and basic rights for all. To learn more, check [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org).

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# Communications

Hello United Methodist Women!

In this new year I will be the Communications Coordinator, meaning I am responsible for composing and mailing the Beacon and other communications from our district. The Beacon is sent to Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Secretaries of Program Resources. Please share the information from these mailings with the members of your units in order that

everyone may be informed of UMW events and news. We would also appreciate it very much if you could advise us of any address changes so we can keep our mailing list up to date. Thank you!

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# Nominations

Coming from the Chair of Nominations and going to Program Resources is not a big move. Both areas involve resources. In the Nominations office people are the resource, whereas in the Office of Program Resources books are the resource. Both resources are critical to the purpose of United Methodist Women. Which office is more fun? Well I can't choose since I have had fun working in both of them. I leave the Nominations Committee with no current members, but have faith that God will provide. Faith, hope, love, and a few more discussions with some awesome UMW ladies will hopefully provide what

is needed. Please keep the Nominations Committee in your prayers as well as the other offices that will be vacant on the first of this new year. Serving in a district office is not a sentence of doom, but rather an opportunity to see if your talents or interests are a good match! Try something outside of your comfort zone. If it doesn't work, what harm has been done? You meet some new people, learn more about yourself? And, when God asks you what you have done with yourself you can merely apologize for not doing so well in serving in a district office. He will be pleased to accept your failure rather

the thought that you stood back and did nothing. Here are the offices of our Iroquois River District that are vacant as of 01/01/2011: Nominations Committee—no members, Chair of Nominations—vacant, Education and Interpretation—vacant, Spiritual Growth—vacant. If you hear the calling, pick up the phone and call me or email me to discuss job descriptions of the offices mentioned above. Thanks for your time and have a Happy New Year with your family and friends.

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# Program Resources



Hello, UMW Ladies! Now that I have my first book sale under my belt I can speak with a wide range of knowledge on so many things. If you need a recipe or help with the Mission Resource Center, just shoot me an email or call. Thanks to my good buddy, Casey Cheney, the Fall District Meeting book sales were over \$1,500. Our outgoing book lady and Woman of the Year, Kay McCoy, took me all through what to do and was such a blessing.

In October at the Personal Growth Retreat and Officer Update in Rantoul several of us discussed issues from our

offices and in particular the reading program. Did you know that titles read from the 2006 list will be credited through December 31 of 2011? Yep! That's one of many things we learned together. Also, we realized that most of our UMW units do not have a budget with which to purchase the books. Most of us purchase the books on our own accord because we want to learn and share with others. Speaking of sharing with others, what if we get organized? What if each unit goes to their libraries, writes down the titles you have from each category and year for

which they will be credited? Then we call around and exchange books with other units until we have all participated in the reading program at some level. Sounds like a win, win to me. Let's hit the books women! Thanks to all of you patient ladies who attended the fall district meeting and made my first program resources event such a pleasure. Keep reading ladies—you rock!

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Vacant

*Education & Interpretation*

Vacant

*Program Resources*

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*Nominations*

Vacant

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# Shepherdesses for 2011

Judy Stoll	Bismarck-Collison-Indianola-Loda-Savoy
Becky Fox	Bement- Bellflower- Farmer City
Judy Hudgens	Donovan-Gilman-Hoopeston-Piper City-Watseka
Nina Holt	Middlefork-Milford-Mt. Vernon-Paxton-Rantoul
Patty Russell	Camargo-Hindsboro-Murdock/Newman-Sullivan
Kay McCoy	Champaign First-Mahomet-Urbana First-Urbana Grace
Barb Rascher	Centerville-Oakwood-Rossville-St. Joseph
Dottie Nickell	Countryside-Tuscola-Urbana Wesley-Villa Grove
Roberta Sterrenberg	Crescent City-Rankin-Roberts/Thawville-Woodland
Bobby Walker	Catlin-Danville Bowman Avenue-Danville First-Danville St. James
Pam Socie	Allerton-Broadlands-Champaign Faith-Tolono
Linda Grose	Arcola-Arthur-Weedman-Weldon

## Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
February 25 & 26		Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat	Springfield
Sat. March 19	9:30 am-2 pm	District Spring Meeting	Sullivan UMC
April 8 & 9		Festival of Quilts	Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana
July 29-August 3		School of Christian Mission	Springfield
Sat. September 24	9:30 am-2 pm	District Fall Meeting	Villa Grove
Sat. October 1		Conference Annual Meeting	TBA
Sat. October 22	9:30 am	District Spiritual Growth Retreat/Officer Update	Urbana Grace



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## Address Service Requested

### Hands-On-Project at District Spring Meeting Saturday, March 19

At the Spring Meeting we will be assembling school kits for Haiti. The items to go in the bags must be exactly as listed or the Midwest Mission Distribution Center will not accept them. In order to have a more uniform amount of items donated we are asking your units to bring the items as follows:

Unit names beginning with A-B	3 spiral notebooks (8 x 10 1/2) 70-80 pages
C	3 stick style pens (blue or black) (no advertising)
D-F	3 pencils (unsharpened) (no advertising)
G-I	1 pencil sharpener
J-M	1 pink eraser (1" x 2") (not gum type)
N-P	1 ruler (12") (with metric)
R-S	1 protractor (6") (with metric)
T-V	1 box of 24 crayons
W	1 pair of blunt school scissors (rounded tip)

These are the items that will fill one school bag. You may bring as many of your requested items as you wish. Obviously we will also need some school bags to fill so the pattern for the one handle school bag is included in this newsletter. If any of your units can make some bags that would be so appreciated.

Love gifts: Cunningham—Any brand of toothpaste, gift cards from McDonalds, Subway or WalMart

Lessie Bates Davis NH—baby bottles, children and youth socks (all colors, sizes), lip balm, baby lotion

Further information about the Spring Meeting and the reservation form will be sent to you in February..