



The BEACON

IROQUOIS RIVER DISTRICT UMW

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

January 2013

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LOVE IN ACTION

UMW and La Leche International

“Helping Mothers Worldwide to Breastfeed”

Presentation by Stephanie Sutton, Accredited La Leche League Leader Since 2008, Area Coordinator of Leaders LLL of Illinois 2010-2013

Stephanie’s biographical information can be seen on page 3.

Iroquois River District UMW

Spring Meeting

Saturday, March 16, 2013

9:00 am-2:00 pm

Faith United Methodist Church

1719 S. Prospect

Champaign, Illinois



Childcare will be provided by reservation. Donations for services are welcomed. Send a sack lunch and drink with your child (children). Due to allergies Faith UMC is a nut free zone. Please do not include any peanut or nut products in your child’s lunch.

(Love gifts are listed on back cover)

Iroquois River District UMW Spring Meeting Registration Form

Local Unit Name: _____ **# Attending:** _____

Contact Person: _____ **Phone:** _____

of Lunch Reservations @ \$10: _____ **Amount Enclosed:\$** _____

Reservations and babysitting requests are due by Wednesday, March 6.

Child Care Reservation: # of children _____ **Age(s)** _____

**Please make checks payable to Faith UMW and send by March 6 to:
Beth Monti, 47 Glenn Drive, White Heath, IL 61884-9740**



From the Fox Den

Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our
God, for He is gracious, and a
song of praise is fitting.
Psalm 147:1

After reviewing, analyzing and reflecting on the President's Goal Reports for 2012, I am very much impressed with the programs and projects YOU are doing in the local units. Many of you are working for the mission for women, youth and children and fulfilling our PURPOSE. The LOVE, JOY, and HOPE units will be recognized at our Spring meeting at Faith UMC in Champaign on Saturday, March 16th.

Looking ahead for our goals for 2013 which seems to be in my head lately, we need to increase our attendance at the local units, the Spring District Meeting and the Fall District Meeting. Another goal is to start planning now for

your United Methodist Women Sunday and be eager, enthusiastic and energetic to tell about our mission. My third goal is that I would like to visit your unit meeting during 2013 but I need to know when and where you are meeting. I could be a guest, do a program or do an installation.

In the book BIBLE PROMISES FOR WOMEN (God's Answers for Life Questions), I received for Christmas from a very special friend, I want to share selected promises from the book.

FAITH—Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

HOPE—For the needy shall not be forgotten, the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. Psalm 9:18

LOVE—Beloved, if God so loved us, we

ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
I John 4:11-12

Let us continue to learn more about the work of the United Methodist Women and find new ways to engage in mission, connect with others, and seek ideas to make our mission work. I know you are proud to be a United Methodist Woman. Let us make 2013 a year to move with Faith, Hope and Love in Action.



Becky Fox, President
203 Misty Cove
Savoy, IL 61874
217-352-3759
fox_rebecca@att.net

Spiritual Growth

The Christmas season is over and now one can sit back and reflect on the ways our hearts were filled with gladness. Perhaps it was a family gathering or a meaningful church service or perhaps a thrilling music program that brings a smile to your face as you recall that special event. As I get older I realize that much of the joy also comes in what I could give to others. Perhaps someone was a special blessing to you or you may have been that "angel" to someone else without even knowing it.

A new year can signal a time of re-prioritizing, re-committing, and renewing important goals. I challenged the members of my local unit to choose one district or conference UMW event to

attend in 2013 (they couldn't count the spring meeting which Champaign Faith will be hosting—participation in that is a given!). If you already do this, commit to bringing one additional friend with you.

The Spring District Meeting on March 16 at Champaign Faith (see registration information on the front page) will be a day to learn, share, honor, and celebrate with United Methodist Women from many other churches. One important part of the day will be a Memorial Service to honor those members who have died since our gathering last March.

Please email or send me your church

name, your town and the names of those individuals to be remembered at our Memorial Service by the end of February. I hope to see you on March 16!



Pat Davis
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
3204 Ridge Park Road
Urbana, IL 61802
217-344-2075
pat@bnpdavis.com

Goings With Towne

RUTH 1:16

Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.

RUTH DEFINED

Ruth as a girl's name is pronounced *rooth*. It is of Hebrew origin, and the meaning of Ruth is 'friend, companion'. Biblical Ruth was the young Moabite widow who said she would not leave her mother-in-law Naomi and both demonstrated their faithfulness with **LOVING ACTION**.

A MODEL FOR LOVING ACTION WITH YOUNGER/OLDER RELATIONSHIPS

1. Proper, appropriate behavior.
2. Demonstrate godly intentions.
3. Encourage.
4. Advice, not authoritarian.
5. Mutual ministry intervention.
6. Healthy communication.

7. Responsibility.
8. Study and use God's word

IMPACT OF LOVING ACTION

Developing and intervening with each other through enhanced faith and knowledge.

RUTH 4:13 & 16

So, Boaz took Ruth home as his wife. The Lord blessed her, and she became pregnant and had a son. Naomi took the child, held him close, and took care of him.

REFERENCE: [The Influential Woman 1]; "Why Women Need Women" by Vicki Kraft From the Series

INFLUENTIAL WOMAN <http://www.bible.org>

Please attend the educational and faith enhancing Iroquois River District UMW Spring Meeting 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Saturday, March 16, 2013 Faith United Methodist Church 1719 South Prospect Avenue Champaign, Illinois. A very significant **KEYNOTE** presentation, **"HELPING MOTHERS WORLDWIDE TO BREASTFEED"** will be provided

by **STEPHANIE SUTTON**, La Leche League International. Childcare is provided; reservations for services and \$10.00 for luncheon must be received by March 6th [Beth Monti, 47 Glenn Drive White Heath, Illinois]. Enjoy the special news and updates from IRD UMW officers; award/certificate presentations and a special Memorial Service.

Please pray for this special mission for babies and mothers. There will be a "Free Will Offering" taken for the La Leche League International Mission.

Available, for posting and distribution, are legal size color fliers describing the IRD UMW Saturday, March 16, 2013 meeting with KEYNOTE information. Please contact me.



Cheryl Towne, Vice President
1109 Lake Ridge Road
Danville, Illinois 61832-1611
217-391-6609 Home Phone
Cheryl.luann.towne@gmail.com

Our Keynote Speaker Stephanie Sutton

Stephanie Sutton has been an accredited La Leche League Leader since 2008 and Area Coordinator of Leaders LLL of Illinois 2010-2013. Her background is in Christian Education. She completed her graduate studies at Garrett Evangelical-Theological Seminary in 2006 and served at St. Thomas UMC as the Youth Pastor 2004-2008.

Her long term goals include combining Family Ministry in the Local Church with Breastfeeding and Birth Support for women and their families. Stephanie lives in Rolling Meadows, Illinois with her husband, Chad, and four children, Shane 6, Wyatt and Amelia 3, Vivian 10 months and mother, Meg Ziegler, a retired United Methodist Pastor.

La Leche League's mission is to help mothers worldwide to breastfeed through mother-to-mother support, encouragement, information, and education, and to promote a better understanding of breastfeeding as an important element in the healthy development of the baby and mother.



Treasurer's Update

Hello, ladies!

WE REACHED OUR PLEDGE GOAL OF \$63,000 FOR 2012!

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity. WE MADE OUR GOAL OF \$63,000. It is amazing what we all can do working together. Don't ever think that your donation is too small and won't matter. With a little here and a little there LOOK at what we accomplished. God has blessed us all.

So far today we have received \$1,358.43 toward our pledge for this year. Thank you for all of the work you do. Working together with our sisters makes the job easier and more enjoyable.

Treasurers, if you need any forms you can make copies of the ones I mailed you or copy the forms from the back of the handbook.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year. I was blessed to have my husband home from Oman for a few days. Then blessed even more, my two Marines and families came home. God is Great! Three of my four children were here for the holidays. Getting to see the two new grandbabies play together for the first time was the best gift any grandma could ask for. Another blessing is that my stepson and his wife are going to have a little one in July.

Thank you again!



Nina Holt
181 No. 2800 E
Rankin, IL 60960
217-397-2294
cell: 217-493-5390
nlholt55@yahoo.com

The Secretary's Notes

Hello Ladies!

Thank you to all the units for sending the information for the Officers Lists for 2013. I'm busy compiling the Directory now and hope to have it ready by the spring meeting. We've lost a few units but we've gained some, too! Thank you for all your help!

Christ's Blessings,
Judy Hudgens
978 North Martha's Court
Milford, IL 60953
815-889-4975
judy.hudgens@gmail.com



Check out our website:
www.igrc.org/iroquoisriver

Communications

Greetings United Methodist Women!
As Communications Coordinator I am asking for your help. We try to keep our mailing list for The Beacon as up-to-date and accurate as possible but with each mailing several copies come back to us as "undeliverable". The Beacon is mailed to Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Secretaries of Program Resources of each unit. We don't know of changes of address

unless you inform us. If there are mistakes in addresses we would like to know this also. Thank you!

Kay McCoy
18 Lange Avenue
Savoy, IL 61874-9705
217-351-9106
cell: 217-722-1613
mccoy18@comcast.net



Social Action

Speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves for the rights of all the destitute. Prov. 31:8. This verse applies to our priorities: Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Climate Change, and Immigration. Education and action are imperative if we are to eradicate these problems.

Domestic violence affects the entire family whether the abuse is emotional, psychological, verbal, or sexual. Toxic stress from economic insecurity and exposure to violence or trauma damages the developing brain and can lead to problems in learning, behavior and health. All children deserve to be safe from abuse and neglect. Children raised in healthy families have fewer medical and emotional challenges throughout their lives. Providing appropriate support reduces the fiscal and societal costs of delinquency and criminal justice services as well as eventual loss of work productivity. Learn more at voices4kids.org.

Human trafficking, a crime, a sin, a shame.

Discrimination, greed, power are to blame.

Human slavery is rampant and worldwide,

Innocent women and children try to hide.

How should you help your neighbors -what should you do?

Show Christian love, as our Savior did to you.

Due to health problems Roberta Sterrenberg has asked to be removed from Nominations Committee. While we will miss Roberta we are welcoming Ruth Sattazahn from Urbana Wesley who will serve through 2014. For 2014 we will be contacting you about the following offices: Secretary, Treasurer,

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that at least 100,000 American children each year are the victims of commercial child prostitution and trafficking with 292,000 youth at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the U.S.

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act/trafficking

Extreme events are fueled by Climate Change. Hurricane Sandy devastated much of the East Coast, 2 million acres of Colorado forest burned, baby birds died in nests in Kansas due to drought. Carbon pollution from vehicle tailpipes and smokestacks and deforestation destabilize Earth's climate and threaten wildlife and people. Reduce carbon pollution, drive less, carpool, walk or ride a bike, use public transportation. Use cloth shopping bags each time you shop. Earth Day is coming April 22. Plan an event. Plant a tree, shrub, flower bed, or vegetable garden. Spring clean and donate unused, unopened items or clothes not worn in a year. Take a walk and pick up litter, use less electricity, observe the Sabbath and keep it Holy. Rest from work, shopping, dining out, driving (except to church), "Be still and know God, listen for that still small voice", as you sit on the porch swing, lie under a tree, walk by a lake, ride a bike.

Lessie Bates Davis NH representative, Nominations Committee. Please pray about this and if God is asking you or someone you know to serve Him in this way, please call me or one of the other members of the Nominations Committee. God bless you in 2014.

"UMW Racial Justice Time Line" is an excellent resource and a real eye opener to the treatment of immigrants and how they have been excluded. Example: Chinese laborers were imported to help build the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s but in 1875 the first exclusionary act barred Chinese contract laborers and Chinese women immigrants from the U.S. In 2011 the U.S. Senate apologized for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Since our beginning, UMW has tried to build community and social order without racial barriers. Racial justice should be an ongoing focus for all as we work to promote racial justice in the U.S. and around the world.

Something all of us can do is to vow to drop the I-word, as no child of God is illegal. They are not criminals, just undocumented. The n-word has been successfully dropped, so we must drop the I-word as well. www.gcorr.org/dropthelword

Patty Russell
Social Action
Coordinator
215 Forest Glen
Tuscola, IL 61953
217-521-0425
prussell61953@yahoo.com



Nominations

Susan Connor, Chair
217-259-1649
radtech20032003@yahoo.com
Roberta Benschneider
217-834-3575
Charlotte Pritchard
217-359-5604
Ruth Sattazahn
217-493-5885



Education & Interpretation

Introducing Jacque Eicher —

I was born in East St Louis, IL. I grew up in French Village and moved to Belleville when I was in seventh grade. I graduated from Belleville Township High School and Belleville Junior College. I graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Elementary Education. I later received a Masters degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University and recently received an Advanced Certificate in Reading.

I married my high school sweetheart. His first job was in Wichita, KS, where our first son, Kent, was born. We moved a year later to the St. Louis area where our second son, Jeff and our daughter, Karen were born. My husband and I became members of Epworth Methodist, when we were just teenagers. We joined St Matthew United Methodist when we returned to Belleville. I was active in UMW and served as vice president for 2 years.

My husband accepted a job as the Vermilion County Planner, in Danville IL, in 1970. Later he became the personnel director and special projects coordinator for the City of Danville.

I began teaching primary grades in Danville schools in 1972. I retired in 2002, but I continue to teach reading at the Children's Dyslexia Center of East Central IL, and volunteer in the GED department at Danville Area Community College. I also volunteer at the Vermilion County Museum as a docent. I'm active in St James UMW, the food pantry, the summer sack lunch program, and 3M Sunday School class.

When Jeff was 3 years old he became a very brittle Diabetic. Rev. Evers, of Epworth U.M.C., and I prayed all day long that he might survive. He was a Diabetic for 40 years. In June 2006, Jeff received a kidney and a pancreas transplant. He is no longer a Diabetic or on dialysis. Miracles still happen.

Our oldest son, Kent became a Diabetic when he was 8. He died of complications from Diabetes in 1995. Our daughter, Karen, died 18 months later, of a massive stroke when she was 31. My husband, Glen, died of complications from Diabetes in 2007.

My faith in God is my support and my strength. Rejoice in the Lord.....rejoice. Philippians 4:4



Jacque Eicher
Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation
319 Concord Drive, Danville, IL 61832,
217-442-4405
glenandjacque@aol.com

Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Hello Friends at Iroquois River District United Methodist Women!

I am Dicksie Blankenship and my husband is Bill. You will see the two of us at our district meetings. My new job is Coordinator of Membership, Nurture & Outreach. I do hope to meet new and old friends at these meetings.

We live in Clinton, but attend church at Weldon. When I was asked about this position it was election time and all I could hear was get out and vote@! So

still in my mind I just want to say let's get out, meet others, and come join the United Methodist Women! Yes, we do have a story to tell. We have ideas, but always look for new ones like how to serve others throughout the world.

I do hope to see you at our next district spring meeting on March 16, 2013 at Faith United Methodist Church in Champaign from 9:00 am—2:00 pm.

Welcome to our world of United Methodist Women!

P.S. Don't forget to bring an old member and ask a new member to come with you.



Dicksie Blankenship
Membership, Nurture & Outreach
Coordinator
999 Route 10 West, Apt. 14
Clinton, IL 61727
217-935-0765
d.blankenship@mchsi.com

Cunningham Children's Home

Exciting news is afoot from Cunningham Children's Home. We had a good meeting of the reps and district presidents in January. The exciting news is the plans for an Educational and Recreational Center to be built as soon as possible. Plans are progressing and monies are being requested to make the new building possible. Your reps would be so happy to come and share the need with you in more detail.

Our Iroquois River District has been asked to bring bath and hand towel

sets (wash cloths NOT NEEDED) to the Spring Meeting. Also gift cards/certificates from WalMart, Subway, and McDonalds are requested. Remember to bring those Box Tops for Education you have been saving with you also. Over \$5000 were added to the coffers last year from the box top collections.

We are looking forward to meeting and chatting with you at the Spring Meeting.



Your Cunningham representatives:

Betty Kmoch
2908 Springhill Lane
Champaign, IL 61822
217-356-5870
betty-louisek@sbcglobal.net



Bobby Walker
406 W. Diller
Broadlands, IL 61816
217-834-3617
bswalker42@gmail.com



Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House



News and Notes from the Neighborhood House:

- Have you seen the video "Our Ministry – Our Missions" on the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House website? If you want to understand the scope and impact that your contributions to Neighborhood House have, go to www.lessiebatesdavis.org and look for this video. The young woman who is finally not homeless after years will have you crying along with her. This is truly what Jesus must have meant when he told us to love our neighbors.
- Did you know that Neighborhood House was honored by the United Way of Greater St. Louis for having a double digit percentage increase in staff participation? They surpassed their United Way Campaign goal by almost 10% and raised

\$13,671 from their hard working staff. What can we do to help?

- Do you know what the reach in Teen Reach stands for? Teen Reach is the after school program Neighborhood House runs in several sites to give kids a safe place to be with caring consistent staff to help them. The Reach in Teen Reach stands for Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, and Hope. Those seem like excellent guidelines for a young life.
- Have you considered being a Caring Neighbor for Lessie Bates? Ask Pam or Linda for a brochure to tell you about this vital program.

Our love gifts for the Spring Meeting are diapers, wipes, and 24-count crayons. Let's stuff a van with these things.

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House Representatives:

Linda Grose
1189 Country Club Road
Sullivan, IL 61951
217-728-4697
mikelindagrose@gmail.com



Pam Socie
1533 County Road 2200 East
St. Joseph, IL 61873
217-469-2782
psocie@gmail.com



Iroquois River District Shepherdeses for 2013

These are your shepherdeses for the district for the coming year. Please invite them to one of your meetings or events and feel free to contact them with any questions or situations that may arise.

Dicksie Blankenship (Clinton) (217-357-4940)	Farmer City, Bellflower
Susan Connor (Sullivan) (217-259-1649)	Arthur, Bement, Villa Grove
Pat Davis (Champaign Faith) (217-344-2075)	Loda, Murdock/Newman, Camargo, Champaign First
Jacque Eicher (Danville St. James) (217-442-4405)	Danville First, Indianola, Bismarck
Becky Fox (Savoy) (217-352-3759)	Rantoul, Danville St. James, Champaign Faith, Wesley Foundation- The Korean Jesus Love UMC
Linda Grose (Sullivan) (217-728-4697)	Paxton, Middlefork, Weldon
Judy Hudgens (Milford) (815-889-4975)	Donovan, Crescent City, Piper City, Rankin
Betty Kmoch (Champaign Faith) (217-356-5870)	Urbana Wesley, Milford, Countryside
Kay McCoy (Savoy) (217-351-9106)	Mahomet, Champaign Mt. Vernon, Urbana First
Barb Rascher (Tolono) (217-485-5566)	Rossville, Roberts/Thawville, Danville Bowman Ave.
Patty Russell (Tuscola) (217-521-0425)	Hindsboro, Savoy, Urbana Grace
Pam Socie (Urbana First) (217-469-2782)	Broadlands, Tolono, Weedman
Cheryl Towne (Danville St. James) (217-391-6609)	Danville Union Corner, Hoopeston, Watseka
Bobby Walker (Broadlands) (217-834-3617)	Catlin, St. Joseph, Sullivan

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat. March 16	9:00 am-2:00 pm	District Spring Meeting	Faith UMC, Champaign
Fri. April 12 & Sat. April 13	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Festival of Quilts	Cunningham Spiritual Life Center
Fri. Aug. 2-Sun. Aug. 4 Sun. Aug 4-Wed. Aug. 7		Weekend and Weekday Mission U (formerly School of Christian Mission)	Northfield Inn, Springfield
Sat. Sept. 21	9:00 am-2:00 pm	District Fall Meeting	Mahomet UMC
Sat. Oct. 5		Conference Annual Meeting	TBA
Sat. Nov. 2	9:00 am-2:00 pm	District Personal Growth Seminar/ Officer Update	Savoy UMC

Program Resources

Once you have quit laughing and composed yourself – after seeing my picture – please remember that your mug shots could show up at any time in much publicized places. You should know that having my picture taken was extremely painful. However, it was decided that if you have a face with which to associate, it will enhance our United Methodist Women's experience. I can be a team player when the boss says "do it."

Back to mug shots for a moment please. The reading program participants of all levels will be honored at our Spring District Meeting. To facilitate that lovely presentation, I need your data that tells the story of who read how many books from what category, their reading of the Response Magazine, and that of the New World Outlook. The sooner I have this information, the sooner Kay can create the program for us so please start sending it my way. Thank you to those folks from whom I have already received this information. Here again are the choices for reporting your reading program information to me. Email the information to: rascher@illinois.edu. It might take a few days for me to acknowledge and reply to it as one patient lady has already encountered, but I will eventually communicate with you. Or, throw the information in an envelope and mail to: Barbara C. Rascher, 802 E. Larmon St., Tolono, IL 61880-9445.

If neither of the above methods appeals to you, give me a call at 217-485-5566 or 217-766-3578 to relay the information over the phone. Or better yet, come over to my humble abode and we will have a cup of coffee or tea while we go over your information. If you need directions, just let me know.

Now that we have the house-keeping issues handled, let's talk about the new Mission Resource Center (MRC). Currently, I am printing the new Mission Resource Catalog from the web site. Since I only have one to share right now, I decided to print another. So far the web site seems very friendly and easy to navigate. For those of you, who are online as they say, please give the new place a whirl and let them know what you think. Since we all like to shop, there is a fine-looking *purple* UMW Journal, bags like what we received at Assembly 2010, and several new items that look neat. If you are like me, I need to have special things with me to show my appreciation and love for all the folks that help me accomplish what is needed for my office. For those who are not online, I will have the new Mission Resource Catalogs at our next meeting at Faith UMC so you won't miss out on the new gifts they are offering.

I just found the reading program list of books for 2009-2013. Here is the URL for the page on

which it is found. <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/learn/readingprogram/>. Go towards the bottom part of the page and click on the *Reading Program online community*. It is SO much easier to read than the one I created for our district. Look for this listing at the meeting along with tools, mission works from our units, and much more information that you will need to succeed in God's business. Please remember to bring the books you checked out when we were at St. James in Danville so that you can exchange them for a different set. Bring books from your libraries as well. We'll have a fantastic book exchange. If you have any book reviews you fancy, bring them to share. Remember that we learn from each other, so bring your knowledge with you. It's free. In God's love... Barb Rascher

***** Program Resources will be open by 8:30 a.m. on March, 16th 2013. Come early, shop late! *****



Barb Rascher
Secretary of Program Resources
802 E. Larmon St.
Tolono, IL 61880-9445
cell: 217-766-3578
rascher@illinois.edu



Iroquois River District UMW

Savoy United Methodist Church

P. O. Box 65

Savoy, IL 61874

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PERMIT NO. 48

Address Service Requested

Directions to Faith United Methodist Church

1719 S. Prospect

Champaign, IL

The church is located one block south of the intersection of Kirby and Prospect Avenues. From I-74 exit at Prospect Avenue and turn south. From I-57 take the Curtis Road Exit and continue on Curtis Road until it intersects with Prospect, then turn left. Routes 10 and 150 will intersect with Prospect, turn south. From Route 45 turn on Kirby Avenue, going west until it intersects with Prospect Avenue, then turn left for one block.

Love Gifts for Iroquois River District Spring Meeting

Cunningham Children's Home

Bath and hand towel sets (no wash cloths)

Gift cards/certificates to WalMart, Subway and McDonalds

Box Tops for Education

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

Diapers, wipes and 24 count crayons