

THANKS FOR A GREAT DISTRICT SPRING MEETING!



Special thanks to the ladies at Sullivan UMC for being such great hostesses and preparing such a wonderful meal. Also, thanks to everyone who attended and all the units who donated bags and supplies to fill them. The 93 women attending filled 134 bags for Haiti! We had 97 more cloth bags which we will save for our fall meeting. Our hands-on-project for that meeting will be to bring school supplies for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Cunningham Children's Home. More on that later!

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President's Perspectives

RESURRECTION - A CONTINUAL STATE OF EMPOWERED LIVING

Lent is over. Easter Sunday is past. Our churches had wonderful events during this special season with special singing, preaching, palm waving, Last Supper portrayals and even fasting and giving up something special—like chocolate!

We have moved through Lent from suffocating sorrow at Jesus' death to exuberant joy at His resurrection and victory over the grave! Psalms 23 reminds us that we all must move through the "valley of the shadow of death". But in every such valley we are kept safe because God guards and protects us and makes us new in his "goodness and mercy". The grave is empty!

The Easter story reminds us that God has the power to forgive and to free us from sin; to give us new life. As God's spirit "dwells in us" (Romans 8:11), resurrection is not only an event; it is also

a continual state of empowered living.

That empowered living through Christ is what motivates us as United Methodist Women to work for missions, pray for our missionaries and for those women, children and youth who are in need. It inspires us to give money and gifts for our many projects in our conference, the nation and around the world.

I thank God for each of you in our District. Your love for others and your desire to show that love through giving and serving is an inspiration to me and the other district officers.

Our spring meeting was so great! We heard about mission trips by groups in our own district and how they witnessed for the Lord by going and serving the people in different parts of the world. Your units brought in so many items for our school kit bags in Haiti, making our hands-on project another great success. THANK YOU!

As our lives get busier this summer re-

member that Christ has empowered our lives through His resurrection. May we all pray this prayer: *"O God of life and love, even when we have experienced the depths of despair, the pain of loss, the uncertainty of change, you have placed before us the reality of new life, of resurrection, of unfathomable possibility. The mysteries of Your presence are beyond our understanding. Your power to bring forth life is beyond our comprehension. In awe of your greatness, we bring our gifts of time, talent and treasure and commit them to Your service, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."*

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Treasury Notes from Nina

Hello Ladies!

I need your help. My computer crashed and I have lost all of your e-mail addresses. If the unit treasurers would please send me an e-mail with the church and unit you represent it would save me a lot of time. Thank you very much. My e-mail address is nlholt@localline.com. If you have sent me an e-mail and I have not responded, please resend it.

I would like to make a correction. The offering that was taken at our district spring meeting was incorrect. The

correct total should be \$668.75 not \$607.75. Two checks were stuck together.

As of the first quarter we have collected \$6,881.95 towards our Pledge. The Designated Gifts totals are \$4,040.35, making a total of \$10,922.30. This is great! The results are amazing when we all work together.

Thank you for your generosity. God bless you all!

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From the Fox Den

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God; it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100:1-3

From the evaluations, the singing, praising, and praying at Sullivan UMC our District’s spring meeting was a great experience for all who attended. The voices of United Methodist Women singing was awesome. Praising God for all the gifts He has given us was shown by your response to mission. Our prayers to God for guidance to continue to grow could be felt as we heard about the mission trips.

From my experience, I know mission trips can make a difference with the people we are helping and for us for helping others. Wesley Foundation in Urbana, Savoy UMC and the Sullivan UMC gave us a witness that will be long remembered on how and

why we help others. Are there other churches doing mission trips who would like to share at our district meetings?

Thank you for taking time to do the evaluations. Thanks for the suggestions for programs and churches to be the host. Your evaluations are helpful in many ways. The fellowship time during the lunch hour was so heart-warming as I watched you visiting and working on the hands-on project (school bags for Haiti). From one evaluation on “what touched my heart” I quote: “the fellowship with all my UMW sisters. It charges my battery until we meet again.” We are continuing with our theme Faith, Hope and Love in Action for the fall meeting in Villa Grove on September 24, 2011.

“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.” Col.1:3

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2011 School of Christian Mission

Weekend School (July 29-31)
Weekday School (July 31-Aug 3)
Northfield Inn, Springfield

The theme for this year’s SOCM is “All Things Made New”. The Spiritual Growth Study is “Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness and Reconciliation”. The new Geographic Mission Study is “Haiti”. The Current Issue Mission Study is “Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity”. The deadline for registration and fees is

July 7 but there is a \$10 discount if paid by June 22.

Special events at this year’s SOCM will be: meet a Missionary or Mission Interpreter; explore the Learning Craft Center; browse and/or buy program resources; browse displays; participate in interest or focus groups; preview study

related audio visuals. Texts for the studies will be available in the Program Resources room or are available from the Mission Resource Center at 800-305-9857. If anyone needs a registration form please contact any district officer or the Dean Jan Corsaro at 309-944-6618.

Spiritual Growth

I have just consented to be the new Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Iroquois River District UMW. I am new to the district, to Champaign Faith, and new to this part of the state so most of you have not met me. Here are the “cliff notes”. We moved to Urbana in November of 2009 after residing in Lake County, Illinois for many years of our married life and most recently were members of UMC of Libertyville for 35 years. My husband Bob and I have three grown daughters and three “exceptional” grandchildren. Bob and I are both retired schoolteachers, Bob from high school mathematics, and me from pre-school and kindergarten. I like reading, gardening, camping, and volunteering and participating in various activities both at church and in the community.

The United Methodist Church has always been a vital part of my life and the many wonderful people in this organization whose paths have crossed mine have helped shape who I am today. I grew up in Decatur and our family regularly attended Grace UMC. When I needed a place to help me in my early faith years, **the church was there**. Leaving home for my college education at Illinois State University allowed me to stretch my wings and yet be supported by the Wesley Foundation where I not

only met my husband, but continued the spiritual growth that began in those beloved Sunday School rooms at Grace. The opportunities for service, discussion, friendship, and worship were vital elements of my college experience. While being a college student I was honored to be chosen to be the Central Illinois Conference college representative to UMW’s Fifth Assembly held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Once again **the church was there** through those years of becoming a young woman.

We were living in Aurora with our three young daughters when a woman from First Church Aurora came to my home and invited me to join a new young women’s circle she was starting thus beginning my full initiation into the sisterhood of United Methodist Women. Then a couple of years later I became a charter member of a new evening circle at UMC of Libertyville. Over our 35 years at this church my interest and involvement in UMW grew from just being in a circle to serving on various committees and then on the mission team. Five years before our current move I enjoyed serving at the district level. **The church was there** as I moved from being a young mother to a full time teacher, to being retired from teaching but enjoying increased

involvement in UMW like School of Christian Mission, Assembly, and Jurisdictional Retreats.

Finding a church home has always been a priority for us whenever we have moved to a new community and we are thrilled with our membership and growing participation at Faith UMC of Champaign. We wanted a place to make new friends and continue our growth in our spiritual journey as well as finding a place to serve. Once again **the church was there**. But just like words in the children’s song says “a church is not a building, a church is the people”. I look forward to being the church through my involvement in the Iroquois River District UMW as Spiritual Growth Coordinator. My final word to you in this introduction is a hope that you join me in celebrating all things new as we greet each new morning as Easter morning where we die to our former selves and are reborn into new creatures of God ready to be the church.

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Cunningham Children's Home

Greetings from your Cunningham Children's Home Representatives!

Another Festival of Quilts has come and gone with attendance up to 1000. It was a wonderful weekend. As of the present time a total of \$34,300 was raised to help OUR kids! A BIG thank you to all of you who contributed in any way to the Festival. We had asked for more donations to the bake sale and were overwhelmed by your response. We are already looking forward to next year's Festival. Check Cunningham's website for more information on the Festival of Quilts.

We are pleased to be able to award so many Spirited Servant Awards this year. If you have not asked for a personal presentation, the certificate will be mailed to you shortly. We hope more of you will be eligible for the award in 2011.

A special THANK YOU to all those who sent gifts in kind to the spring meeting at Sullivan. We are always amazed at your generosity. Keep saving those Box Tops for Education.

God bless you all!

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Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

Thank you for your generosity at the district meeting in Sullivan. Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House received the following: 519 pairs of socks, 135 lip balms, 130 baby bottles, 62 baby lotions, 16 baby blankets and quilts, 9 tote bags, 8 baby hat and bootie sets, 5 onesies, 4 adult quilts, 3 crib sheets, 2 pairs girls shoes, 1 baby shampoo, 1 baby powder, greeting card fronts and \$155.00. You are blessing many people through these love gifts. Thank you for all you do!

Updates from the Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House is proud to welcome into its family of services the Continuum of Life Care Center located at the Paulyn House in E. St. Louis. The Continuum of Life Care Center serves the area homeless by providing a place to shower, do laundry, get food and start job training. The Paulyn House is a beautiful building which will continue to house these services for the homeless and will also be home to the Americorp program.

The kids of the Teen Reach program have created their own video to send to Governor Quinn, detailing why their program should not be cut from the state budget. Visit their website at www.facebook.com/LBDNH to view the video. They have also helped build and paint computer desks being used at the Mary Brown Center where Teen Reach is housed as well as maintaining a garden there.

What does your money do for the Neighborhood House?

The 2011 budget for Neighborhood House is projected to be \$10 million. Because Neighborhood house survived the tough economic year in 2010 more agencies want to work with LBDNH causing the budget to grow. Of that \$10 million United Methodist Women supply \$200,000. Don't let that number fool you. Every \$1 in private funds raises \$50 in government monies.

Here's what government funds do **not** do that your support does: provide aids in the day care, provide van drivers to

transport day care children, seniors and others temporarily needing rides to work; provide food pantry workers. Currently the food pantry serves 4,000 people a month providing 16,000 pounds of food every 2 weeks and that is not enough to meet the need.

As of mid-March the state owed NH \$1.4 million. Neighborhood House is serving 12,000 families annually. Look at what we as United Methodist Women are doing! **Thank you!** Please consider becoming a Caring Neighbor for LBDNH. For more information contact Pam or Linda.

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Social Action

Hello! I have so much information it's hard to condense it so I will emphasize a little from each of our priorities in each newsletter.

GLOBAL HEALTH: World Fair Trade Day is May 14. Members of Fair Trade are wholesalers, retailers, and producers committed to providing fair wages, good employment opportunities, and safe working conditions to disadvantaged artisans and farmers worldwide. Our best local example is Ten Thousand Villages in Champaign which has been actively supporting skilled artisans and crafters since 1985. This store features over 130 artisans from 38 countries and is committed to paying fair prices so that our disadvantaged and poor brothers and sisters of the world can make a fair living and provide for themselves and their families. There are over 390 retail outlets in the U.S. selling Ten Thousand Villages products. To learn more check these sites: www.tenthousandvillages.com, www.mybolgabaskets.com (African baskets, etc.). Equal Exchange orders@equalexchange.coop/umcor (coffees, teas, chocolate are Fair Trade Products from small farmers). Help stop unfair labor practices, slave labor,

and human trafficking by shopping at businesses that offer Fair Trade products. Give a greater gift knowing poor families (many single moms) are receiving fair prices for their labor and products.

There will never cease to be some in need on earth, I command you, "open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land." Deut. 15:11

RACIAL JUSTICE: Many of the disadvantaged farm workers and housekeepers are minorities who have often been promised a better life to leave Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Cambodia, etc. and come to the United States. Their "better life" becomes a nightmare as thousands of men and women become modern slaves to large corporations, sex slaves to the rich and famous, and are kept in perpetual poverty by receiving less than minimum wage, no health insurance or sick leave. Many deaths occur in the fields yearly due to unacceptable, sub-standard farm labor practices. Tobacco farm workers can absorb the amount of nicotine found in 36 cigarettes each day! National Farm Workers Ministry: www.nfwm.org and Youth and Young Adult www.nfwm-yaya.org.

"...you shall not oppress the alien...you shall love the alien as yourself." Leviticus 19:33-34

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

Plastic is wonderful,
Plastic is grand,
Plastic is littering all our land.
Use paper, metal, glass instead,
So you won't be into plastic over your head.

Too much plastic is found in the ocean causing deaths of sea creatures or litters the landscape or sits in landfills for centuries. Think green! Use cloth shopping bags; conserve water-catch rain in barrels for plants, gardens, bird baths; use glass cups at church, socials, workplace; donate clothing, shoes, furniture; recycle when possible (metal, plastic, paper, cardboard, electrical appliances, computers, etc.). "When you lose the rhythm of the drum-beat of God you are lost from the peace and rhythm of life. (Cheyenne Proverb)

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Communications

Greetings!

Thank you to those of you who have sent changes of address for our mailing list. We are charged by the Post Office for all Beacons returned with incorrect or changed addresses so we really appreciate your keeping us informed.

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Nominations

News from the vacant chair of nominations on the vacant nominations committee is: YAHOO!! The Lord is good—all the time—all the time—the Lord is good! Thanks for saying that litany with me. Two UMW ladies have stepped up to try on an office for size. Pat Davis who has been involved with UMW for quite some time, but more recently has come to our part of the country has become our Spiritual Growth leader. I won't go into a lot of detail since Pat has already written her own introduction. Thanks so much Pat for taking that task off of my plate. Welcome aboard Pat!

Our second UMW lady to step up is Cheryl Towne (you don't pronounce the "e" - you just say town) from Danville. Although I have not had the pleasure of working with or speaking with Cheryl in person, we have had a couple of lovely chats on the tele. Cheryl looks forward to learning the duties of her office as

Education and Interpretation leader. After reading Cheryl's bio I am definitely not the person to be introducing her. Her list of educational accomplishments is remarkable. Take a look for yourself but remember that she is on our team now. Cheryl is more than ready to inspire and ignite us to get with God's program. Welcome aboard Cheryl!

Cheryl received a B.S. in nursing from the University of Illinois, a Master of Arts in Gerontology from Eastern Illinois University and completed Legal Nurse Consulting post graduate. Past community activities include: District 118 School Board Member; Danville Historic Commission Member; Daisy Girl Scout Leader; Parish Nurse; Education Scholarship Committee Chairman Illinois Federation of Republican Women. Current activities include: St. James Methodist Church and United Methodist Women member; Provena United Samaritans Medical Center Foundation

HALO Project Women, Parent Aware Committee member; Governor Bradford Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter Officer and State Vice-Chairman (terms end Summer 2011); Vermillion County Republican Women's Club President; and Illinois Federation of Republican Women Treasurer.

Hopefully the full complement of our executive board can meet before we have the yearly conference training at the School of Christian Mission in July. In the meantime, please welcome Pat and Cheryl to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference/Iroquois River District Executive Board.

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Festival of Quilts

From Cunningham Children's Home:

"Thank you for being a part of the 7th Annual Festival of Quilts. Together we raised over \$34,000 for children and youth at Cunningham Children's Home. Special thanks to the Festival sponsors, judges from the Kankakee Quiltmakers Guild, the dedicated and talented volunteers, quilters, crafters, and the United Methodist Women of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for making the 2011 Festival of Quilts a wonderful success."

Best of Show
and
People's Choice Award Winner

"Woodland Creatures"
shown by Carolyn Stine



Updated Iroquois River District UMW Officers - 2011

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Nominations

Vacant

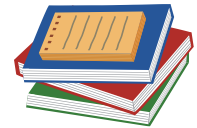
Program Resources

Did you miss me at the district's spring meeting? It appears that many of you ladies did not have time to browse the program resources room and I apologize for that. Although \$1,000 in resources were sold, I will strive to allow access to needed materials by opening earlier, providing more time during the day to visit the program resources area, or by staying open later after the meeting. This and other issues were kicked around directly following the meeting on March 26th. While the day's events are fresh in our minds, the executive board discusses ways to enhance everyone's experience. We read through each feedback given that you graciously take the time to write and for which we are very thankful. Without your help we cannot provide what is needed and in a manner which is appropriate for most of our attendees. We realize that we can't do everything right for everyone who attends, but we will do our best.

Now let's get back to the book lady stuff. As I said \$1,000 in resources were sold but the money is a side note compared to the education and sharing that will take place. Once you have read your latest treasure, be sure to offer it to the next UMW lady. In our local group, Casey tags the books with details from the reading program and reads them first. After she gives a quick review at our meeting, she passes them along to the next anxious reader.

Please remember that I am new to this post and lacking in knowledge in oh so many ways. I will find answers to your questions, so don't be afraid to continue to ask and nudge me when I forget to share those answers. Currently, there are ladies in need of ideas for Bible studies. These gals have done the normal courses of study and are looking for new ideas along with the resources for them. Does anyone out

there have some to share? They thought of perhaps a chronological study of the Bible? Put on your thinking caps and give me a holler so that I can relay to the needed group. Also if you cannot get online to order what you need between meetings or do not care to do so anyway, give me a holler or email and I will be happy to place an order for you. Who knows, maybe someone else also needs things and we can share the shipping charges with them. Be well and read a book for me will ya?



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Geographic study:Haiti



Spiritual Growth Study

These three texts are the current mission studies for School of Christian Mission 2011. These texts may be ordered in advance of SOCM by calling 1-800-305-9857 or ordered online at www.missionresourcecenter.org. They will also be available for purchase at

SOCM. Also available are texts of these mission studies designed for youth study.



Current Issue Mission Study



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Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
July 29-July 31		School of Christian Mission (weekend)	Springfield Northfield Inn
July 31-August 3		School of Christian Mission (weekday)	Springfield Northfield Inn
Sat. September 24	9:30 am—2 pm	District Fall Meeting	Villa Grove UMC
Sat. October 1		Conference Annual Meeting	Crossroads UMC, Washington IL
Sat. October 22	9:30 am	District Spiritual Growth Retreat/Officer Update	Urbana Grace UMC