



# Northwest District NEWS

2011 Publication

May Issue

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Women's Division Website:  
<http://www.umwmission.org>

Mission Resource Center  
[www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org)

Iowa UMW Website  
[www.iaumc.org/umw](http://www.iaumc.org/umw)

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## PRESIDENTS

In our last **NEWS**, I wrote about VISIONS. Proverbs 20:27 says *The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being. (NIT)* So as you sit in His waiting room, waiting for these VISIONS, think of who and where you are. We often feel limited and struggle to try something new. The stone wall that we have to climb is "But we never have done that," or "That is not how we do it," or "That will never work."

God challenges us to walk closely with Him and find the PURPOSE, however long it takes. Hold nothing back and climb over those walls. Galatians 6:9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. (NKJV)* There are units who are trying varied interest groups to get ladies more interested in attending. I am smiling from ear to ear.

We so loved seeing you at the Mission Study and Spiritual Growth Study. It was so interesting to walk in the shoes of a person in the Sudan or hear John tell us to Love everyone. No matter your age, I hope you don't get stuck in your chair in His waiting room when there is so much to see and do.

My words today come with the help of a small book [You're Late Again, Lord!](#) by Karon Phillips Goodman.

Another thought for you today: We always know God won't give us more than we can handle. There are times we just wish He didn't trust us so much. Oh! I have another, learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. I'm trying.

Smile and make someone's day.

Blessings,  
Linda Johnston, President  
1702 Grand Plaza Dr  
Spencer, IA 51301-3176  
[lindjohnston@yahoo.com](mailto:lindjohnston@yahoo.com)

Linda received the following updated **report about Shesler Hall**.

Things are going well at Shesler Hall right now and we are glad that spring is here, following a long and difficult winter. There are currently 15 Shesler residents, and while this is a good group of ladies, their mental illness and other needs are severe and increasingly complex at a time when services from other agencies and providers are still being cut. Also, as recent reports confirm, the Iowa mental health care system is dismal, which hits Shesler Hall hard, but also affects many other UMC missions including Bidwell-Riverside and Hawthorne Hill. We will watch with great concern Iowa governmental efforts to repair this “broken” system.

There have been many programming additions and refinements implemented to deal with this, and they have made significant improvements in the level and quality of care at Shesler. This does, however, come at a price. Every single staff member, without exception, is experiencing greater demands on their time, skills and experience level. These dedicated women are working far beyond their job descriptions and, as always, even further beyond their compensation. It would be wonderful if our financial position would allow a greater reward for the incredible work they do out of love for the residents.

At this point, we are able to pay our monthly bills, thanks in great part to the Iowa Conference UMW. The help received late last year when our finances were really shaky was amazing. We are blessed to know this will continue, hopefully throughout the year and for many, many years to come.

Another bright spot at Shesler is that YOUR beautiful building is in excellent shape. There have been no major breakdowns or crises for quite some time. The plumber and the Roto-rooter man remain our best friends, but things in general are in good repair and looking good. Shesler staff and residents are extremely fortunate to have the Iowa Conference UMW as their landladies, mentors, friends and angels!

#### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

I have been planting seeds with the hope of beautiful flowers and vegetables. I cannot see, feel, hear, smell, or taste the life in a seed until it is planted. It is the same with God’s Word. As United Methodist Women, our passion is planting seeds. Seeds of Faith-Hope-Love In Action in God’s Word will grow and produce a bountiful harvest to the glory of our Lord.

With our recent mission and spiritual growth studies in March and April, many seeds of Faith-Hope-Love In Action were planted. Thank you to the Peterson and Early United Methodist Women units for providing the garden and gardeners. So many wonderful comments were received from those of you that attended the Sudan Mission Education Event and the Spiritual Growth Study—For the Love of God. Thank you United Methodist Women for your gracious appreciation expressed to everyone involved in both of these events.

With the warm summer months ahead of us, it is my prayer that we take the time to plant God’s Word deep in your hearts and minds and then let it produce abundantly in our life and the lives of others. For those of you going to School of Christian Mission in Marshalltown, July 17-20, I look forward to being together with you for this growing time in God’s Word. The theme is “All Things Made New.” How appropriate with planting seeds through God’s Word!

Our Northwest District United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting will be Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Odebolt United Methodist Church in Odebolt. It will be a time to celebrate the harvest of seeds that have been planted together in God’s Mission. Make plans to join in the love and fellowship we experience when we are together. You will receive more information in our July News newsletter.

God’s Blessings and Grace to Each of You,  
Jane Weber, Vice President  
510 Alta Vista Street  
Alta, IA 51002-1456  
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**NW District Officers Executive Committee: FYI**

The next Northwest Executive Officers' Board Meeting will be held Saturday, July 9, 2011, at Odebolt United Methodist Church, 301 South Walnut Street, Odebolt. This will be an important meeting so Executive Officers please mark your calendars and make plans to attend. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you Odebolt United Methodist Women for hosting this meeting for us. It is appreciated very much!

Jane

**Judy Marnin**, our presenter for the Sudan Mission Education Event, would like to express her gratitude to everyone that attended the study at the First United Methodist Church in Peterson on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The comments and your generous donations she received were overwhelming. The donations she received that day were sent to the Yei School for Girls in Yei. She wishes to thank everyone for your generosity. Remember, their Independence Day will be July 9, 2011. There are still many issues to be resolved between the governments of Sudan and South Sudan between now and the July 9<sup>th</sup> deadline. Continue to keep the people of Sudan in your prayers as they experience this life-changing event.

**SECRETARIES**

Sometimes our "work" may seem overwhelming (such as when we take on a new office), but by now most of the work secretaries do should seem somewhat routine. There are some dates you should be aware of, however, and be able to remind your fellow officers of them. Your treasurer should have submitted the amount pledged by your unit for the 2012 pledge to the District Treasurer Sue Ritts by **June 1**. If this has not yet been done, please remind your treasurer it needs to be done as soon as possible. You might also contact your president and make sure the pledge is an agenda item for your next meeting. At the end of June (**June 30**), the Mission Study Report and the Mission Today Report are both due. If you have an E & I (Education and Interpretation) coordinator, she should be getting these in order and sending them off. This year's contact person would be the District President Linda Johnston, as the NW District has no E & I Coordinator at this time. If you don't have this mission coordinator, perhaps the President or even you are responsible for completing these forms. Please try to send them in by the deadline. Credit for these studies and awards for your mission work cannot be awarded in a timely fashion if the District officer does not receive your paperwork. The Reading Program Report is also due **June 30** to Jane Kirchner.

And speaking of NW District officers, you should all know and report to your units that the NW District is short officers for the current year. The secretary's position is in its second year of being done by a secretary pro tem. This year is the first of a 2-year term for anyone willing to take on this position. Also, the E & I position previously mentioned, is open for someone to step into and do the organizing of mission education events. This also is the first of a two-year term. We only have three people currently serving on the Nominations Committee, and one of them retires at the end of this year. Both of the other two are scheduled to retire at the end of next year! These things are worrisome enough, but looking forward to the end of this year we add the retirement of the treasurer, the spiritual growth coordinator, the membership, nurture and outreach coordinator, and the above noted nominations member. Please prayerfully consider these positions, and if you really can't step forward and accept this work, then prayerfully submit the fulfillment of these positions to the Lord. The Nominations Committee needs all of us to help in finding new people to do the above work. Please contact Chairman Connie Ashley or the members of the Committee—Bettie Spies and Jan Yungbluth—with your name or the name of a person you consider a good candidate for any of these positions. Your help would be gratefully appreciated.

Please note on your calendar that the District Annual Meeting and LOTS (Local Officers' Training) are fast approaching. We hope to see all of you, if possible, at the Odebolt United Methodist Church in Odebolt on Thursday, **Sept. 22**, for a day of learning and celebration of the work already done.

Your Friend in Christ,  
Marty Warrender, Secretary Pro Tem  
[mdwarrend@yahoo.com](mailto:mdwarrend@yahoo.com)

## TREASURERS

Happy spring, Treasurers of the NW District UMW,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for keeping on track with your giving and sending in forms on time! You really are making my job easier. My four years will be finished as your treasurer at the end of this year. Some days I think "Where did the time go?" And others I wonder, "What was I thinking?" But my journey with you has been great and I pray that one of you will step up to the plate and be our next treasurer for 2012. Please give it your prayers too. Our district needs to have all the officers to make a whole.

As I was pondering what to write for this newsletter, the words to one of my favorite hymns came to mind: "He said, freely, freely, you have received, freely, freely, give. Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live." United Methodist Women do go, do believe, and do live so others may learn that our God lives! Your giving might be small, but it is POWERFUL! Someone's life will be touched, somewhere, somehow. We may never know who we helped, but we have the assurance that if we follow our "Purpose," others will benefit.

We already have some units that are "Five Star Units." Praise the Lord!

Some reminders are:

- (1) The four special askings should be \$.75 per member. If you forgot and only sent \$.50, perhaps you could send the difference.
- (2) The 2012 Pledge to Mission form should be mailed to me by June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will help the district executive finance committee plan our budget for next year.
- (3) The love offering should be sent to me in July and absolutely no later than **Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>**. It won't be counted for the Mission Candle burning on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at the NW District Annual Meeting if it arrives late.

I will be sending a statistical report to you prior to the annual meeting. Please check the figures for your unit and let me know if we don't match. You can bring it to our officers' training event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Sept. This will help you know what your unit is lacking to be a "Five Star Unit," and you will have time to catch up if needed. Please make an effort to come to our meeting. As treasurers we have a lot to discuss and learn, and it is much easier to do so in person. Besides, there are a lot of you I have never had the opportunity to meet, and I would love to say thanks in person. Perhaps you can car pool to save expenses.

May God continue to bless each of you and your unit.

If you have questions, give me a call at the home phone number, and if I am not there, leave a message. As I told you before, my husband Alyn is a great message giver.

With praise and thanksgiving,  
Sue Ritts, NW District UMW Treasurer  
205 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Washta, IA 51061-1005  
712-447-6186  
Email: [susiegritts@yahoo.com](mailto:susiegritts@yahoo.com)

## E & I COORDINATORS

The clock in God's waiting room says it is time to share how we have been able to carry out OUR PURPOSE. THE IOWA MISSION TODAY REPORTS are due **June 30, 2011**. Take a moment to review what you have done since last June and check the boxes. This is as good for you in seeing where you are in your studies as it is for us to see if we are getting our materials and training passed to our units. Send the report to Linda Johnston, NW District President, UMW, 1702 Grand Plaza Drive, Spencer, IA 51301-3176. THANK YOU for helping me.

Linda

## MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, & OUTREACH

Dear United Methodist Women Members,

I hope you are enjoying the nice spring weather. I need your help now. I need you to send me pictures and names of members who have passed away since **last September 2010 to July 1, 2011**. I need these to display at our Memorial Service at our District Annual Meeting in September. I would really appreciate it if you can get these to me by **July 7<sup>th</sup>**.

I hope you are getting some new members for your units.

Thanks for helping me so I don't have to call 78 units!

Thanks again,  
Marlene Jorgensen  
6011 130<sup>th</sup> St  
Galva, Iowa 51020-8500

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

HAPPY SPRING!!! As I look out my window I can see the sun shining, green grass, trees leafing out, fruit tree blossoms, and spring flowers blooming in my neighbor's yard and in my yard. Everything looks so fresh and new after a recent rain and reminds me that it's time for new beginnings. We all can start our day with devotions to let God 'rain' upon us, refresh us to help us bloom, and thank Him for our wonderful weather, beautiful foliage, and start anew.

I want to thank the Early United Methodist Women and their pastor for being gracious hostesses for our Northwest District Spiritual Growth Study held at their church on April 12, 2011; especially after their community had been hit by a tornado, but thankfully not their church. Also I'd like to thank all 60 persons who attended and all the NW District officers who assisted in presenting our Spiritual Growth Study For the Love of God: The Epistles of John, and the great feedback about our study. We all gave prayers to those who had been affected by the tornado damage with hope of speedy repairs.

I'd like to encourage all United Methodist Women to continue your Spiritual Growth by attending future Spiritual Growth studies, especially those at School of Christian Mission on July 17-20, 2011, or the Mission Education Event on Oct. 28-30, 2011, both of which will be held at Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center at Marshalltown. After you attend any Spiritual Growth Study please pass on what you have learned so others can be spiritually inspired.

To all of the United Methodist Women's units I have visited, and to those I have plans to visit this year, I want to thank all of you for inviting me to visit your unit, and encourage all of you to keep up the good work in mission work for women, children, and youth. It doesn't matter the size of your unit, but it does matter what you do for missions. Keep up the good work.

In closing, here are some scripture verses to help you on your spiritual growth experience:

- In praying to God—I Chron. 29:1; Ps. 96; Deut 6:4
- How to pray—John 15:7; Josh. 1:8
- To give thanks and praise—Ps. 100; I Thes. 5:17-18
- Prayer for Blessing—Num. 6:24-26
- Prayer for Faith—James 5:15-16
- The Lord's Prayer—Matt. 6:9-13

And from Colossians 3:16-17—"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Blessings to all,  
Mary Jo Carnine, Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
509 N Roosevelt Ave, Cherokee, IA 51012-1471  
(712) 225-6301, email: [mjcar-9@ncn.net](mailto:mjcar-9@ncn.net)

## SOCIAL ACTION

“Then the Lord looked upon the earth, and filled it with his blessings.”

- *Where His Love Abides* by Jennifer Grimaldi

I opened my daily devotional book this morning to find these inspiring words. When I look out my window, the Sun is shining, the birds are singing, and the flowers are blooming. There is beauty all around me. It is easy to see the blessings sent down from the Lord.

I am reminded once again of the need to protect and preserve the blessings the Lord has sent. I hope that all of you have taken note of Goal number 8 on your Mission Today Report form. The goal says, “The unit implemented a practice to become environmentally friendly. Must include written description and evaluation.” I hope that you are all well on your way to achieving this goal. We must care for the blessings the Lord has given us.

My e-mail and mailbox have been full of “Action Alerts” and legislative reports this week. Positive Action was taken as the Iowa House sent Gov. Terry Branstad an \$8.9 million bio fuel tax credit package designed to encourage the production of bio fuels within our state. The Education Bill and the Department of Health and Human Services budget bills have also gone to the Governor for his approval. The Iowa legislature is working to reconcile the House 20-week Abortion Ban with the Senate’s bill called “The Certificate of Need Bill.” We need to be alert and make our wishes known about these actions.

Our national leaders are, once again, working on the budget. I urge you to check out the Action Alert related to this issue at <http://newgbgm-umcorg/umc/act>. The part of the budget which is discretionary spending proposes 56% for the defense budget while making cuts to Medicaid, SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), and Headstart. It is important that we educate ourselves about this budget battle and make our elected leaders aware of our wishes. We pray that they will have the wisdom and courage to do what is best for all God’s people.

I look forward to seeing many of you at School of Christian Mission in July. If I can be of assistance with your goal for the Mission Today Report, please feel free to contact me.

Nancy Wickre

[nantaray5@acsnet.com](mailto:nantaray5@acsnet.com)

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

Welcome to summer, and it’s about time! Hopefully all who farm or at least garden have been able to get a lot accomplished outside. Summer is also a good time to read, outside on the patio with a cold glass of iced tea beside you, relaxing by the lake, or just settling in for the evening before you go to sleep. Now that I am back to work, this is now my reading time.

You have until **June 20** to turn in your reading plans to your local secretary of program resources. She will in turn send them to me, and I need them by **June 30**. Don’t forget that even if you haven’t completed a whole plan, reading only one or two books on the list should be reported too, so we have an idea of how many people actually pay attention to the United Methodist Women Reading Program books.

Since we no longer have our District Lending Library, we decided this year that reading program books should be available for sale at all of our District meetings, including the Mission Education Event in March and the Spiritual Growth Retreat in April. I had the reading books along with study books for School of Christian Mission with me at both meetings, and sales were very good. I hope that with this knowledge, you can plan to add to your UMW libraries in March and April also, not just in September at the District Annual Meeting. It helps if you can buy the books without having to order them and pay postage on them, since postage is so high.

One of our District officers also mentioned to me that not all of our units are yet aware of the publication which tells what books are on the current year’s reading list. There were some still looking for that small glossy-paged catalog we used to get. The last time one of those was distributed was in 2008. Then our Mission Resource Center was moved from Ohio to Texas, and with that the booklist was no longer printed in a catalog. From 2009 until the present, the names and descriptions of the books are printed on newsprint the size of a small newspaper. When the District officer

mentioned that the members of the unit said they had thrown that away as they didn't know what it was. We try to include at least one, and possibly two of these papers in each President's packet which is given to each unit President each fall and sometimes an extra one is sent in the mail to each unit. The one thing I and my predecessors have tried to stress is the reading of these books; not only for your spiritual growth, but to also broaden your mind on issues that are going on right now worldwide. I have many notes I have taken on these books (I call some of them study books because I learn a lot from them and I want to remember these things, so I write them down). Some are novels that are interesting to read. But all are well worth your time.

Until next time KEEP READING AND ENJOYING BOOKS!!!!!!

Jane Kirchner, Secretary of Program Resources  
307 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St, #19, Pocahontas, IA 50574-1700  
[tourguidejane@hotmail.com](mailto:tourguidejane@hotmail.com)

"I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library." – Jorge Luis Borges

### COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Greetings Communications Coordinators,

The wonderful weather of spring is finally here. Don't you just love these 70 degree days with the bright sunshine, the vivid plots of flowers across the lawns, and the beautiful pastels in the blooming fruit and decorative trees? I certainly do. These brighten my day, and I get to laugh at the antics of the young calves, lambs, and piglets. How cute they are as we begin again the progression of the seasons and of life.

Important dates this spring and continuing into the summer were/are **June 1** – Pledge reported to NW District Treasurer Sue Ritts; **June 30** – Reading Program Report due to Jane Kirchner at Pocahontas, Mission Today Report and Approved Mission Study Report due to District President Linda Johnston at Spencer; School of Christian Mission – **July 17-20** at Marshalltown – "Faith, Hope, Love in Action"; **Sept. 1** – Love Offering/Fill My Cup Offering due to District Treasurer; and don't forget the District Annual Meeting on **Sept. 22** at Odebolt United Methodist Church at Odebolt, IA.

I am hoping this will reach you before the end of May but scheduling of printing time has run into some snags. The next NEWS to reach you will be sent out shortly after the next Executive Board Meeting on July 9. Included in it will be the ballot for the election of officers at the District Annual Meeting and other information your unit will need for the meeting. Please make plans to be in attendance. It is always a day of friendship and fellowship and of sharing the good news of accomplishments for the past year. For some it is a time of friendship renewal, and also a time of making new friends—all through the United Methodist Women's organization. Hoping to see you at School of Christian Mission and/or District Annual Meeting.

Also, if you have had any new members join your unit, a change of officers, someone moving to a new address, please report these changes to me. I need your help in keeping the mailing list current.

Marty Warrender, NW District Communications Coordinator  
[mdwarrend@yahoo.com](mailto:mdwarrend@yahoo.com)

### NOMINATIONS

The Committee is gearing up for the election of the NW District officers for 2012 during the District Annual Meeting at Odebolt, Sept. 22, 2011. While this is a top priority, we started this search already short several positions: secretary, education and interpretation coordinator, and at least two positions on the Nominations Committee itself. In addition to these, at the close of 2011 we will need a treasurer, spiritual growth coordinator, another position on the Nominations Committee, and our vice president is tentatively not going to run again. As you can see, we have a big job ahead of us.

Please consider throwing your hat into the ring. Talk it over with your spouse or significant other, your best friend, and most importantly, your Lord. Then turn in your name or others' names to be contacted and considered for office in 2012. Send information to Connie Ashley, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, NW District United Methodist Women, 401 Webster, Merrill, IA 51038-7745, [connieashley@mtcnet.net](mailto:connieashley@mtcnet.net) ; Bettie Spies, Member of Nominations Committee, 3220 Cherry Ave., Hudson, SD 57034-8910, [bspies@alliancecom.net](mailto:bspies@alliancecom.net) ; and/or Jan Yungbluth, 120 Willow Lane, Rossie, IA 51357-7609, [jyrossie@gmail.com](mailto:jyrossie@gmail.com) . If you would prefer to contact any other District officer, please feel free to do so. Your help is very much appreciated.

Marty

## DATES TO REMEMBER

June 1	Unit Pledge for 2012 due	Send to NW District Treasurer, Sue Ritts, 205 N 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave, Washta, IA 51061-1005
June 30	Reading Program Reports due	Send to NW District Program Resources Secretary, Jane Kirchner, 307 NE 3 <sup>rd</sup> St, #19, Pocahontas, IA 50574-1700
June 30	Mission Today Report due and Approved Mission Study Report Due	Send to NW District President, Linda Johnston, 1702 Grand Plaza Dr, Spencer, IA 51301-3176
July 17-20	School of Christian Mission Iowa Valley Continuing Ed Ctr Marshalltown, Iowa	"Faith, Hope, Love in Action" Spiritual Growth study – <i>Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Reconciliation</i> Social Issue – <i>Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity</i> Geog study – <i>Haiti: Challenges and Hope</i>
Sept 1	Love Offering/Fill My Cup Offering due	Send to Sue Ritts, NW District Treasurer, 205 N 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave, Washta, IA 51061-1005
Sept 22	Northwest District Annual Meeting and Local Officers Training	Odebolt United Methodist Church, Odebolt, IA

## PURPOSE

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