



Northwest District

NEWS

2011 Publication

February Issue

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR FELLOW OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

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

Mission Resource Center
www.missionresourcecenter.org

Iowa UMW Website
www.iaumc.org/umw

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Casting Visions and Dreaming Dreams are ways to see a picture of our mission and to figure out the road to get there. My visions are not new ideas. We just need to be reminded of ways to dream.

The FIRST VISION I have is to keep our units energetic and involved.

1. The Shepherdess visits will encourage and help our units.
2. We will keep active, even as we age, and this will keep us young.
3. We need to find special projects to involve the working and the young.
4. You can also come up with special projects to increase your giving by a few dollars.

The SECOND VISION is to get many more involved with the NW District and Iowa Conference.

1. We need your help to fill all the OFFICER positions.
2. You need to get out of bed and attend the District meetings, Conference Annual Meeting and School of Christian Mission or MEE. We all can spend long days vacationing, so why not a few long days for UMW.
3. Try to get all forms returned to the District on time. We will remind you.

The THIRD VISION is our continuing support for Bidwell-Riverside, Hawthorn Hill and Shesler Hall.

1. Because of the economy, weather disasters and less funding, these projects have suffered this year. You have done such a good job helping these projects and

I know you will continue your support.

The FOURTH VISION is that we rediscover OUR PURPOSE some way whenever we meet.

1. You can make lists, take names and, don't be afraid, ask others to join you. We are on the right road but may need some roadmaps: Bible, Program book, Handbook, "response"--these are just a few.

The weather balloon does depend on the weather conditions but we live in Iowa. It will get worse or better, and it does get better if you are patient long enough. We can't stop giving THANKS for all that we have and as a building crew we will keep our roads in good shape and well traveled.

BLESSINGS, Linda Johnston

VICE PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Vice Presidents,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who makes "all things new." With each New Year we are given new opportunities in our relationship to God through United Methodist Women. Let our focus be Christ-centered as we live out our theme for 2011 – Faith – Hope – Love In Action.

Several of the units have sent me their 2011 Program Book and I congratulate you on the work you have put into planning the New Year. There is most definitely Faith – Hope – Love in Action in the Northwest District. If you have not sent me your 2011 Program Book, I look forward to receiving it from you. I enjoy seeing what is going on in the 79 units in the Northwest District and it gives me the opportunity to be up close and personal with your unit—so to speak.

In the 2011 United Methodist Women Program Book, Finding Peace, I echo the message to "welcome the challenges, insights and reflections these programs bring to you and your unit or circle. Renew your commitment to the mission of United Methodist Women with women, children and youth in local communities and in other countries."

I look forward enthusiastically to spending the day with you on March 15th for our Northwest District Mission Education Event, "Sudan," to be held at the First United Methodist Church in Peterson and again on April 12th for the Spiritual Growth Study, "For the Love of God: The Epistles of John," to be held at the United Methodist Church in Early. (See Flyers on both events in this Newsletter.) These are just some of those wonderful opportunities we share as United Methodist Women, coming together for a time of fellowship, learning, and spiritual growth.

May Grace and Peace be Yours in Abundance,
Jane Weber, NW District UMW Vice President
510 Alta Vista Street, Alta, IA 51002-1456, 1-(712) 200-2322

As Vice Presidents of United Methodist Women we are encouraged to promote Church Women United and their ecumenical programs and celebrations each year. The following upcoming dates should be added to your calendars.

Friday, March 4 th	World Day of Prayer
Friday, May 6 th	May Friendship Day
Friday, November 4 th	World Community Day

Northwest District Officers Executive Committee: FYI

The next Northwest District Executive Board Meeting will be held Saturday, May 14, 2011, (note change of date) at the Hope United Methodist Church in Pocahontas. Thank you to the Pocahontas unit for hosting this event. The units do an outstanding job in accommodating the officers for these executive board meetings and it is very much appreciated by all of us. Thank you! Jane

SECRETARY'S BLURB

To All Secretaries,

Files all cleaned out and rearranged? Check. Supplies all neatly stored? Check. Minutes for the January meeting of your unit completed? Check. Such is the life of the secretary—a list of items to be completed and stored neatly in some semblance of order. Organization and attention to detail are two traits any secretary needs. Of course, along with these comes prayer. Good help might be hard to find, but prayer lets you call upon the very best to aid you in your work for the United Methodist Women.

Along the way I hope you find that the few minutes it takes to write up the meeting's notes and store all documents away become second nature to you. Choosing the first available moment to do this work keeps all things where they are needed and done before things are forgotten or lost. These are good practices to get into and will, hopefully, leave you with lots more hair at the end of your year than if you continually set them aside and are then rushed to do the work before the next meeting. May you all be accompanied by the good Lord as you go through the year making records of business discussed and done and storing them away as the history of your unit.

Many thanks to all those who responded by form returned, emails sent, or phone calls graciously accepted. Contact has been made with each of the 79 units in the Northwest District and information compiled so each officer has a list of all the local officers serving in the District and Conference has a current mailing list. Please keep me informed if there are changes throughout the year so the list can be kept current.

May the good Lord bless and keep you,
Marty Warrender, Secretary Pro Tem

TREASURER'S INFO

Greetings,

I trust you received my letter and report that I mailed to you the first of the year. Please reread the reminders and keep them close for future reference. Also check and recheck the Planning Calendar that you received last fall in your treasurer's packet. This will help you stay on track for your unit's giving and planning.

I have asked Marty to include a copy of the form that I call the "Bible Form." This is the remittance form that must accompany all money and/or orders that you send me. There is still some confusion when you are sending a remittance. This form is the top paper to fill out. If you are ordering a SMR pin, send this "Bible Form" plus the pin order form. If ordering Gift to Mission Cards, send the "Bible Form" plus the card order form. Again, the enclosed form is to be sent with every remittance. If you haven't already made multiple copies of it for later use, please do so.

The N.W. District Executive officers are busy planning two events that I encourage you and members of your units to attend. March 15th the study will be on Sudan and will be lead by Judy Marnin. She is an awesome leader and very interesting to hear. This will be at Peterson. April 12th our Spiritual Growth Study will be in Early and covers the Epistles of John. This too will be very interesting and needs your attendance to help make it a success. See more information in this newsletter regarding these events.

2010 was a positive year for the NW District U.M.W. Our total pledge to the Iowa Conference U.M.W. was \$96,196.00. Give yourselves praise with thanksgiving! If we continue to live our purpose and strive to be good stewards of God's gifts, 2011 will be even greater.

Spring is just around the corner (which one I'm not sure as I look out at snow, wind and cold!). But with its arrival, we will be closer to Easter and the greatest gift of all. Keep Jesus and His promise alive in your daily walk and as you continue to work for the great organization of The United Methodist Women.

If you have questions, please contact me anytime.

Your Sister in Christ,
Sue Ritts, Treasurer NW Dist. UMW
205 N. 3rd. Ave.
Washta, Ia. 51061-1005
712-447-6186
Email: susiegritts@yahoo.com

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Our Sudan study is set. JOIN US at Peterson on March 15th , 2011.
The FLYER is attached to the Newsletter for more information.

I recently told some friends that since I retired I became a UMW fanatic. Upon reflecting on that statement, I see a wild woman zealot storming our Methodist Churches looking for these wonderful women. I don't think I have ever done anything wild and crazy my entire life so this may have been an over-statement. I do believe United Methodist Women have done spectacular service in Mission and have great education materials. I KNOW THERE IS SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO COULD BE OUR E&I COORDINATOR. Please consider this office. I will guarantee you will get more from this mission than you could ever put into it. You would also have many United Methodist Women who would help you.

Linda J., your Pres.

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH

Happy New Year!

It can warm up anytime that it wants!

I want to thank all of you ladies for getting the membership forms sent back to me. We still have lost more members than what we have gained. So it means we all need to work harder and get some new members. If they are working gals, we may have to change our meeting time. Please keep trying and have a good year.

God bless you,

Marlene Jorgensen, 6011 130th St, Galva, IA 51020-8500, (712) 282 - 4328

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Happy New Year to all. Here we are in a new year and I hope this finds everyone in good health and that your lives are filled with many blessings.

I'd like to encourage all United Methodist Women to use the Scripture verses, Prayer Calendar, and New World Outlook and response magazines in your unit and circle meetings. By doing this, my hope is that it will enrich your spiritual growth and widen your horizons in living out United Methodist Women's Purpose.

Every day as I do my devotions I learn more of God's word and get inspiration from the words written by those who write the devotions. In my prayers I pray for the needs of others and also ask for guidance in following God's word. Most recently, I have been praying for guidance in preparing for the upcoming Spiritual Growth Study—For the Love of God: The Epistles of John, coming on April 12, 2011, at Early, IA. I hope that many of you will be able to attend as we learn more on loving all humanity, as well as finding out "the sum of the whole Gospel—We love Him because He first loved us." I John also tells us that having fellowship with God cannot be separated from having fellowship with one another, which I hope we all can experience. So,

mark your calendars for April 12 for our Spiritual Growth study and look for the flyer in this newsletter to share with others.

Many Blessings to all,

Mary Jo Carnine, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

509 N Roosevelt Ave, Cherokee, IA 51012-1471

Phone: (712) 225 – 6301

E-mail: mjcar-9@ncn.net

SOCIAL ACTION

The time is now! The state and federal legislators are in session. The decisions they are making affect the welfare of us all. It's time to make our voices heard. They are working on issues related to immigration, the environment, and social justice. One of the Social Action priorities for the Iowa Women's Division, and for the Northwest District, is health/healthcare. Officers in the Northwest District included an emphasis on mental health.

Mental illness does not discriminate by age, gender, race, socio-economic status or political party. It affects everyone from the child with attention deficit disorder, to the teens that suffer from depression, to older adults with dementia. People of all ages are affected by substance abuse. Others are bipolar, schizophrenic or obsessive/compulsive. Mental illness contributes to abuse of women and children, homelessness, and our increasing prison populations. Shelters, such as Hawthorne Hill and Shesler Hall, find that they are providing service to an increasing number of people affected by mental illness. There is no doubt that the need for increased funding and improved treatment programs for the mentally ill is a growing concern for all Iowans. Our legislators are aware of this need.

Representative Chuck Soderberg wrote in his weekly report (Hawarden Independent, Jan. 27, 2011) about the bill, HF45, which provides for a supplemental appropriation of twenty-five million dollars to eliminate an 18-month mental health wait list and begin the process to redesign the Mental Health Delivery System in Iowa. This bill was approved on a 60-40 vote in the Iowa House. It has now been sent over to the Senate. Senator Randy Feenstra, writing in his At the Capitol column, in the same newspaper, informs us that Democrats controlling the Senate have stated that the \$500 million de-appropriations bill, which includes the HF45 supplemental appropriations, will never come up in the Senate. It will die, killing a chance for Mental Health reform. We can help by contacting our legislators at the Capitol (515) 281-3371 and telling them that we support HF45.

Things change quickly at the legislature as votes are taken and new bills are introduced. You can receive action alerts via email regarding federal and state legislation and events by joining the Iowa Legislative Network. Visit <http://www.iaumc.org/site/stayconnected>. Be sure to click on the "Legislative Network" box. Let us all stay informed and let them know WE CARE.

Officers of the Northwest District will go to Des Moines for an Advocacy Day on Feb. 16th. We will advocate for legislation related to our goals.

Don't forget National Bell Ringing Day on March 8. Keep working to be a Green Unit. We pray that our Creator, God, helps us work with faith, confident in the knowledge that what we sow will someday bear fruit.

Nancy Wickre, (712) 551-2013, Email: nantaray5@ascnet.com

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Greetings to all of you living in Iowa's wonderful white world of winter! And I can't think of a better activity to be doing inside, while God sends us the beauty of the snow outside, than reading! Last year our Northwest District had 128 readers completing a plan. Let's see if we can outdo ourselves this year.

First of all, a few things I need to bring to your attention. On the sheet which was included in the President's packet which listed the books in each category that were available through the SILO lending program at your local libraries, under Education for Mission, the book Disfigured by Rania Al-Baz was listed. I am sorry to say that it is not available through SILO. There was only one copy in all of the libraries and it must have been a popular request because whichever library had it withdrew it from SILO lending (which they are allowed to do). It is the only book under Education for Mission in our new 2011 selections which was available through SILO, so now none of them are. (I discovered this when I tried to borrow it, so I ended up ordering it for our library. It is a very good book.)

Next, I need to clarify a few things. I called Jean Sheets, our conference Secretary of Program Resources, to verify these things. Previously I had heard other Program Resource secretaries tell us that reading the program book counted as a book under Education for Mission. It **DOES NOT** count as a reading program book. Jean said she had never heard that before. Other questions I have been asked are about the study books for School of Christian Mission. They **DO** count. The Spiritual Growth study always comes under Spiritual Growth and the studies like Sudan and Haiti can be placed under Education for Mission or wherever you need to fill in a book.

The following books will also count but they are no longer available to be ordered from the Mission Resource Center. These **ARE** available through the SILO program at your local libraries.

EDUCATION FOR MISSION

"Broken Promises, Broken Dreams" by Alice Rothchild

"Stones Into Schools" by Greg Mortensen

"Listen to the Wind" by Greg Mortensen

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY

"I Have Seen Him in the Watchfires" by Cathy Gohlke

"Just Hospitality" by Letty M. Russell

SOCIAL ACTION

"Ending the U.S. War in Afghanistan" by David Wildman and Phyllis Bennis

"Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White" by Adam Hamilton

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

"Praying in Color" by Sybil McBeth

"Enjoy the Silence" by Maggie and Duffy Robins

LARGE PRINT

"The Centurion's Wife" by Davis Bunn and Janette Oke

Remember Plan I consists of reading four books—we now have five categories to choose books from, but you still need only read four—and reading "response" magazine. Plans II, III,

and IV (8, 15, and 20) books also require that you read both “response” and “New World Outlook” magazines

So, curl up in your favorite chair under an afghan or lap quilt, and read away! May the knowledge and inspiration you gain from reading these books allow your faith to grow, and help you as a United Methodist Women member to “turn faith, hope, and love into action” on behalf of women, children and youth in your local areas and around the world.

READ, LADIES, READ!

Jane Kirchner, Secretary of Program Resources

COMMUNICATIONS

To stay in contact with our unit officers, we must maintain a current list of those serving in various positions in their local units. It is this list that is used to forward the newsletters to you and your units—whether by Email or snail mail. At this time it looks like we will be mailing hard copies to approximately 100 officers who do not have access to computers. We are also Emailing newsletters to about 225 additional local officers. My goal is to send by Email to anyone who has turned in an Email address. This would get you the information about what is going on in the Northwest District at the earliest possible date. This cannot be done without the cooperation of all of you in the District. Please help to keep this list up-to-date by reporting changes throughout the year to the District Secretary or to me.

Two important District events will be taking place in the next three months. Our District Mission Education Event (DMEE) on Sudan will be held at the Peterson United Methodist Church on March 15. Judy Marnin will be the presenter for this study. It will be followed on April 12 by the Spiritual Growth study—For the Love of God: The Epistles of John. The Early United Methodist Church has graciously accepted the hosting of this study. Flyers for both of these studies are included in this newsletter. A map with directions is on the back of each flyer.

If you have questions or need help with anything this year, please feel free to contact me. If I don't know, I will do my best to find out the answer for you.

Your Friend in Christ, Marty Warrender, NW District Communications Coordinator
112 Hwy 31, Washta, IA 51061-1009, (712) 447 – 6335, mdwarrend@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE on NOMINATIONS

We are constantly searching for people willing and able to fill the seventeen positions on the Administrative Council. Currently we are running short a secretary, an E & I coordinator, and 4 members of the Nominations Committee. Yes, it takes some of your time. Yes, you do travel over 16 counties in Northwest Iowa. And, yes, you will meet many, many delightful women who may become friends for your lifetime. What wonderful blessings you receive for offering your service to the Northwest District of the United Methodist Women. Consider it, please.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN			
FOR ALL TREASURERS			
Local Unit:		District: NORTHWEST	
Conference: IOWA		Period From:	To:
	UNDESIGNATED GIFTS		TOTAL
1. Pledge to Mission			
2. Special Mission Recognition			
3. Gift to Mission			
4. Gift In Memory			
5. World Thank Offering			
6. Pledge Other:		a. Penny-a-Day	
		b. Love Offering/Fill My Cup	
		c. Other	
Lines 1-6c		TOTAL MISSION GIVING	
	DESIGNATED GIFTS		AMOUNT
6. A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial			
7. Supplementary Gifts:			
a. A Brighter Future for Children and Youth			
b. Assembly Offering			
c. Scarritt-Bennett Center			
d. Crusade Scholarships			
e. Magazine Fund			
National, International and UMCOR Projects			
<small>(If additional pages are needed, please complete the Supplementary Gifts--Details Form)</small>			
Name of Project		Address	
8 Bidwell-Riverside		Des Moines	
9 Shesler Hall		Sioux City	
10 Hawthorn Hill		Des Moines	
11 Campaign for Children			
12 Umcors			
13			
		<small>Total from additional page--Supplementary Gifts--Details Form</small>	
Line 7-13		SUBTOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY GIFTS	
14 Bequests			
Line 6-14		TOTAL DESIGNATED GIFTS:	
		Iowa SOCM	
	TOTAL REMITTANCE	Ck. #	TOTAL:
		Date:	
Treasurer:		Address:	
Phone:			
E-mail address:			

RING YOUR BELLS MARCH 8, 2011 **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

TO SPEAK OUT: Women's rights are human rights.

TO URGE GOVERNMENTS: To ensure women's equality.

TO STAND WITH WOMEN: For their right to vote, to be educated, to live free of violence.

DID YOU KNOW?

* Violence against women is the most common, but least punished crime in the world.

* The number of women forced or sold into prostitution is estimated worldwide at anywhere between 700,000 and 4,000,000 per year. Profits from sex slavery are estimated at seven to twelve billion U.S. dollars per year.

* Globally, women between the age of fifteen and forty-four are more likely to be marred or die as a result of male violence than through cancer, malaria, traffic accidents or war combined.

* During war 80% of the casualties have been women and children.

* Violence is the most egregious form of inequality visited upon women And has become the greatest human rights scandal of our time.

Figures taken from: Secretary-General 's in-depth study on violence against women (2006)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Share this information with church members.

Put an article about Women's Rights Day in your local newspaper.

Distribute bell shaped name tags saying , "International Women's Day" for the women of your church to wear on March 8. Prepare them to answer questions and advocate for women's rights.

Write or Call your congressman.

RING YOUR BELLS!



SUDAN

**THE BEAUTY & COURAGE OF
SUDAN: WHY A DREAM OF PEACE IS
POSSIBLE**

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
MISSION STUDY**

March 15th, 2011

**First United Methodist Church
103 E. Third Street
Peterson, Iowa**

8:30-9:30- Coffee and Fellowship

9:30-11:30-Gathering and Sessions

11:30-12:30-----Lunch Break

12:30-2:30 Gathering and Sessions

This study offers an extended portrait of Sudan.

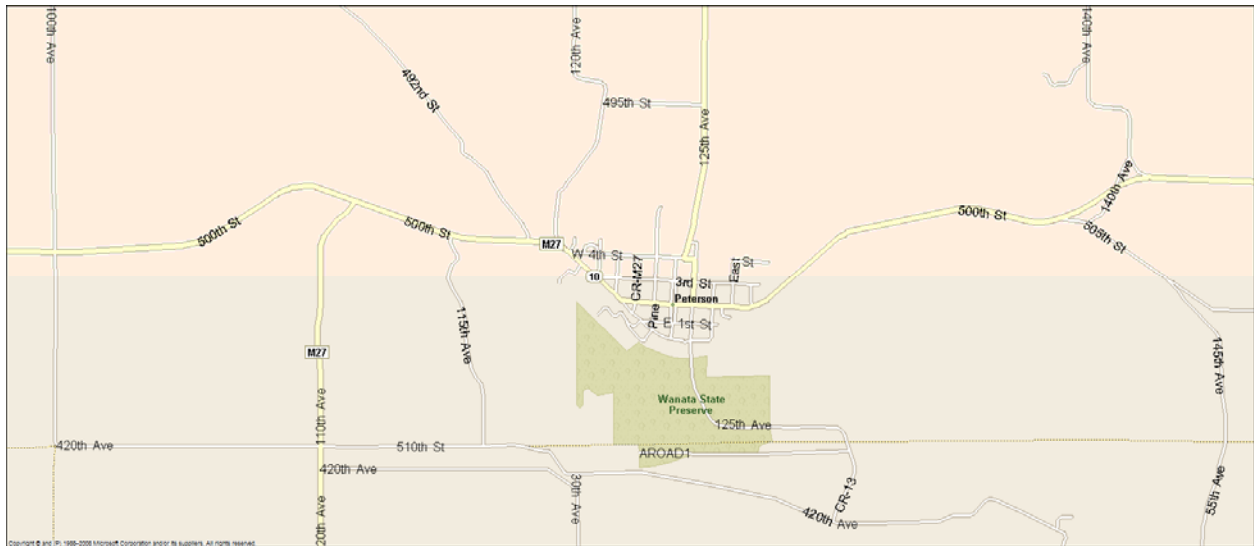
The sessions will be led by Judy Marnin.

Judy taught this study at School of Christian Mission

Lunch \$7.00

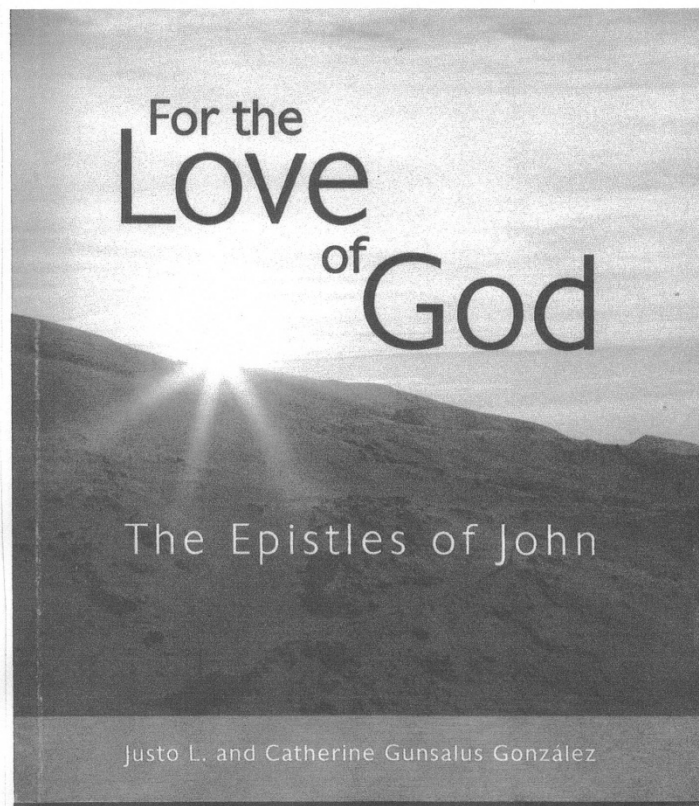
Contact Shamon Krager for lunch tickets

712-295-7361 rskrager@evertek.net



Peterson, IA 51047, is located in the SW corner of Clay County, Iowa, on State Highway 10 and County Road M27. Above are maps of the general area and of the town of Peterson.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY
April 12, 2011
EARLY, IA, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



9 AM Registration/Study until 2:30 PM. Bring Bibles. Noon lunch \$7.
RSVP to Mary Lou Steele @ 1 – 712 – 273 – 5505 by April 8.
See map and directions on back of flyer.

Early, IA is on Hwy 71 & 20 (220th St), going South. Watch for the United Methodist Church sign, turn Right on Third St. Go past the school to Hickory St, turn Right onto Hickory St and go almost to the end of the street. The church has a white steeple—address 402 Hickory St, Early, IA 50535.



Please join me and other Iowa UMW friends at one of the wonderful mission learning experiences this year.

School of Christian Mission

July 17-20

Mission Education Event

October 28-30

(Classes at MEE will be offered in 3 languages: English, Korean, and Spanish. Child care and teen class, too!)

Both events are held in Marshalltown and include classes YOU are interested in –

Spiritual Growth (Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Reconciliation)

PLUS either Geographical Study on Haiti or Social Issue Study on Evangelism and Mission: "Joy to the World"

KEYNOTE STUDY LEADER is

***Glory Dharmaraj,
from Women's Division.***

Scholarships are available from the District. Please let me know who in your unit is interested.

PURPOSE

The organized unit of 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.