



Focused Remarks

East Central District United Methodist Women

November 2008

Dear Presidents of the East Central District,

It seems like just yesterday when I was writing my first letter as president of the newly formed district, and now it's time to write the last one. If you attended the East Central District meeting in Vinton, you already have your president's packet of information needed for returning forms on time.

Please ask your shepherdess if have not received your packet by Nov. 1.

The most immediate need is for you to fill out the Membership Form and return it to me by the December date on the form. I will be glad to accept information via e-mail or phone calls as well. Remember that all members whether they attend meetings or not are included in the total membership number. Certainly when an obituary is written, they will list UMW as one of the organizations in which they have participated. I will ascertain the number of pastors from the district office. With all of the multiple charges, we must be sure to count them only once. If your pastor's wife is a member of several units, decide who will count her this year; only **one may count her each year**. Consult with the treasurer of your unit so the numbers jive. Thank you for this very important account of the membership of the East Central District.

As a conference, we just pledged \$600,000 to Women's Division for our Mission Giving for 2009. Begin planning how your unit will accomplish your pledge donation. We have so many projects of medical, economical, and education growth for women, children and youth around the world.

Without our support many would suffer far worse than they do. According to the United Methodist Women's Purpose we will continue as long as ever we can to teach other women how they can become whole persons through Jesus Christ and with that empowerment, they can develop a supportive, creative fellowship. We attempt to do just that within

our own local units as we affirm each other and contribute to the general welfare of our membership with visits, contributions of food for those physically unable to prepare it for themselves, and the love and support with our prayers at other times.

Each time we memorialize one of our members who has passed on to her reward, we lose a little of the history of our organization. Be sure to instill in your younger members the zeal for mission that the older members have always shown.

We must bestow the gift of sacrifice on our young members and our grandchildren. We have learned how blessed we are when we can "give up" a frill so someone across the continent or across the world can have medication, learn to harvest a larger crop, supply books and educational materials, sewing kits, layettes, and the list goes on and on. Women's health issues take a back seat to other more pressing concerns in governments run by dictators powered by greed. Children are dispensable in non-Christian governments. Our purpose drives us to continue to support programs that strive to bring a life of peace to those who only have lived in refugee camps displaced by war or famine. Bask in the glow of knowing that your pledges have created "safe homes" for orphaned children of AIDS infected mothers, native women are being instructed so they can carry the words of the Word of God as "Bible Women" continue to grow in numbers around the world, and many women have learned to "farm" in areas where they can no longer exist on subsistence farming. There are so many worthy causes and fewer funds to continue ever increasing costs of bringing the gospel and the love of our neighbor to those who need most to hear the Good News!

Continue to run the race and praise God that we can make a difference with our combined giving power so that many lives will be impacted with mission giving from the East Central District of the Iowa Annual Conference. I leave this district in the most capable hands of Linda Peters who will become the

president on January 1. Support her with your prayers and your love as you have done in the past.

Blessings,

Helen Schaub
 HSchaub@aol.com
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 cell 563-590-2542

To the Vice Presidents

We can tell by the colorful leaves and our full calendars that Fall must be here.

First of all, a tremendous thank you to all who participated in our East Central District annual meeting at Vinton Wesley on August 27th. We had a good attendance and all comments were most positive. A special thanks to the UMW of Vinton Wesley and to Pastor Larson.

Other fall events have included the Conference Annual meeting held October 4th at beautiful Grand View Church in Dubuque and the District Mission Study on Native Americans at Clinton First on October 13th. It's wonderful to see old friends at these events and to make new ones.

Each day we hear less and less about the victims of the 2008 floods but these people are still trying to get their lives "back to normal" if there is such a thing. Pray for them as they prepare for the cold winter days ahead and to give them the strength to rebuild. Also remember your own blessings and what God has given to you.

Blessings to all,

Kay McGuire

From the Secretary

I really appreciate all the officer lists that I've received so far—all 42 of them. I'm sure that the rest of you will get yours sent in as soon as you can. I know that some units don't elect their officers in September each year, so you can't turn the list in on time. I really do need the information before the end of November as December 1 is my deadline to have the information sent on to the Conference officer. If you don't have all of the officers but know who the President, Secretary and Treasurer will be, send them on to me as soon as possible. You can send the rest later. If you have more officers to report or changes in the officers or their addresses, e-mail addresses, or phone numbers, remember that Marlene Himes will be the new East Central District UMW Secretary after the first of the year and is the one that needs that information. Here's how to reach her:

Marlene Himes
 1204 Bowler St.
 Hiawatha, IA 52233-1924
 319.393.3374
 Fhimes261@netzero.com

I also greatly appreciate those who took the time to find the plus four digits for the zip codes. That will save me lots of time. Otherwise, I have to look them up on the Post Office web site.

I was glad to meet many of you at the officer training at the East Central District Meeting on August 27. Remember, if you have any questions, I'll be glad to try to help you. I hope your units are off to a good start for this school year.

Linda Peters
 518 Palisades Rd SW
 Mount Vernon, IA 52314-1747
 319.895.8714
 Lpeters8714@msn.com

From the District Treasurer

As we wind up the year as active UMW units, we wonder where the time went. The important things to remember to do as soon as possible are:

1. Mail your final 2008 remittance to me by Dec. 5. I will close books on Dec. 10 and any checks received after Dec. 10 will be deposited and credited in 2009.
2. If you have not yet given to the Five-Star Unit categories make sure that you do that before Dec. 5.
3. Now is the time to recheck your records to make sure you have sent the 50 cents per member asking for the Iowa Projects and Penny a Day per member offering.
4. If you haven't yet determined what amount you will send in order to empty your treasury you can do this before December 31 and forward your check to me at that time. That final check will then be deposited and credited to your unit in 2009.
5. You should keep enough in your treasury to get by for the first few months of 2009 but the remainder needs to be sent to the District Treasurer.

Please call or email if you have any questions or are uncertain about anything. It will be much easier to make corrections and clear up loose ends during 2008 than it will be after the first of the year when the books have been sent to the auditor.

This will be my final newsletter article and I want you all to know that it has been a joy to work with you and thank you for all the hard work you do for UMW. Please refer to the instructions that you received at Annual Meeting or by mail for where to mail your remittances beginning January 1.

I pray God's blessings for you as you continue to serve Him through UMW.

Ruth Leick
 ECI District Treasurer
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 563-556-7369

Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Keep in mind that the reporting period for the Mission Today and Approved Mission studies reports started July 1. That means units who had attendees at School of Christian Mission, our District Mission Study and Mission Education Event this year could and should get those report forms out and fill that much in. When the deadline approaches next June 30, it's hard to remember what you did almost a year ago!!

The missions study in Clinton on October 13 was well attended. The district officers prepared and led the study: *Giving Our Hearts Away, Native American Survival*. I would encourage every unit to borrow or buy this study book and every member to read it. It's not just about Native Americans but about all Americans and the role, as United Methodists, we have played in the past and what we must do in the future to ensure that we all live with purpose and dignity.

May the holidays and the year ahead be filled with blessings!

Love and Peace,

Nola Moser
 PO Box 72
 Amana, Iowa 52203
 319-622-3561

The Purpose of United Methodist Women

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.

Mission Coordinator for Social Action

I hope you were able to attend our District Annual Meeting in Vinton last August. We had a good turnout and good program. I hope all had a good time and enjoyed the day.

Also, I hope some of you had a chance to purchase some of the Equal Exchange Coffee that was on sale and liked it.

Looking forward, I want to remind all Social Action Members to be thinking about International Women's Day and the Bell Ringing Initiative. It will be on March 8, 2009, which will be a Sunday. You may be able to do something during church services, with the support of your pastor.

The Iowa Conference United Methodist Women invite everyone in Iowa to celebrate the Bell Ringing Initiative on March 8, International Women's Day. Everyone is encouraged to ring bells on this day, church bells, hand bells, school bells wherever you live. When you hear the bells, you will know someone is "ringing" out for women's rights as human rights.

I hope you saw the Women's Action Network about 'Making sure every vote counts.' If not, please look it up and read it. www.umwmission.org

Shirley Thompson
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*Remember to
exercise your
Right to Vote.*

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power.

The Iroquois Prayer in our Mission Study, "*Giving our Hearts Away*" *A Native American Survival* by Thom White Wolf Fassett relates the Native American love of nature and appreciation of what God has provided. It truly describes how they lived the sacred.

The hymn "All Creatures of our God and King" was written by Giovanni Bernardone, who we know as St. Francis of Assisi. I think he also lived the sacred. St. Francis wrote over 60 hymns. He enjoyed all the wonders of nature and revealed it in his hymns, Another hymn that is very familiar to us is known as The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. The first line is "Lord make me an instrument of thy peace."

The third stanza of "All Creatures of our God and King" expresses some of the same words I've read in the Iroquois Prayer. It reads as follows,

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them His glory also show.

O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

May we all come to know and learn ways we can live the sacred in our church, family, and as United Methodist Women.

Doris Currier
904 Farmland Drive
Maquoketa, IA 52060-3334
563-652-4403

A set of Bible verses for 2009 was prepared by Doris and included in the President's packet at District Annual Meeting. Another set was distributed at the Conference Annual Meeting. That list is included in this newsletter. Feel free to use either or both lists in your unit next year.

Program Resources Secretary

It has been a lot of fun serving as the Program Resources Secretary for the last four years. I want to thank everyone that I sent books to and also all the units that came over to my house to pick up books for getting the books back to me in a timely manner.

I was hoping to have the 2009 Reading Program Catalogs by the Mission Study. Unfortunately they didn't arrive in time. When I finally receive them, I will try and get some to all the units that order their own books.

Thanks again for all your cooperation.

Peace and Blessings,

Pat Jacobson

Nominations

Hello, again,

This is the last time I will nag you about suggesting names for district officers. Consider that you have been nagged. Names may be given to any district officer.

Thank you to those who did suggest names.

Sandy Moore
Chair of Nominations Committee

Please share the information in this newsletter with others in your UMW unit. Copies are sent to President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The other officers depend upon you to keep them informed.

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Didn't we have a great meeting in Clinton the other day and the weather was absolutely "wunderful"? We were so glad to see everyone and the salads were soooo good. Hope you all enjoyed the beautiful trees too. We learned so much about "Giving Our Hearts Away and Native American Survival." Hope you all were so inspired that you went home with plans to give a program for your own units! Serve something our Native Americans would serve and invite all the "gals" you know to join you. Our books are "chuck" full of interesting information and suggestions. At School of Missions, my group formed a Tribal Council (see pg 153 in Giving Our Hearts Away).

I'm looking forward to working with all of you as your Mission Coordinator of Membership Nurture and Outreach in 2009. If I can help any of you, please send me an e-mail.

In His Service,

Dorothy Witt
dottiejw@mchsi.com

Communications Coordinator

The main task of the District Communications Coordinator is to edit and produce *Focused Remarks*, our district newsletter. This four times a year publication is the primary way district officers have to "tell the story" of what is going on in the district and encourage participation of local UMW units.

Please remember to "tell the story" in your local churches. Let church members know of opportunities to study and learn, to have creative, supportive fellowship, and to reach out in mission locally and around the world.

I have completed my term as communications coordinator so this will be my final newsletter. It has been a pleasure serving among you. I look forward to continuing on the district team as treasurer for the coming year.

Blessings,

Carol Clark
CarolDbq@aol.com

Iowa Conference UMW 2009 Bible Verses

January

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
Romans 8:26 (NRSV)

February

God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes....
Ephesians 3:20 (Living Bible)

March

Don't strip your vineyard bare, or go back and pick up the fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner.
Leviticus 19:10 (The Message)

April

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NRSV)

May

The commandment we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.
1 John 4:10 (The Message)

June

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

July

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.
Psalms 46:1 (NIV)

August

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)

September

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

October

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
Titus 2:11 (NRSV)

November

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:6 (NRSV)

December

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

East Central District United Methodist Women Units and Shepherdesses, 2009

1. Alburnett - Kay McGuire
2. Baldwin/Monmouth Faith - Barb Tabor
3. Belle Plaine Christ - Linda Peters
4. Brandon - Ruth Chrystal
5. Camanche St. Mark's - Dorothy Witt
6. CED Asbury - Pat Jacobson
7. CED Buffalo - Pat Jacobson
8. CED Kenwood Park - Pat Jacobson
9. CED Lovely Lane - Pat Jacobson
10. CED New Creation - Mary Fredericksen
11. CED Salem - Susan Thompson
12. CED Sharon - Susan Thompson
13. CED St. James - Susan Thompson
14. CED St. Mark's - Mary Fredericksen
15. CED St Paul's - Linda Peters
16. Center Point - Helen Schaub
17. Central City First - Ruth Chrystal
18. Clarence - Barb Tabor
19. Clinton First - Sandra Moore
20. Clinton Lyons - Dorothy Witt
21. Coralville - Ruth Farmer
22. United Ch. Of Deep River - Joanne Glotfelty
23. Delmar - Doris Currier
24. DeWitt - Doris Currier
25. DUB Center Grove - Janet Busch
26. DUB Grand View - Janet Busch
27. DUB Rockdale - Ruth Leick
28. DUB St Luke's - Ruth Leick
29. East Dubuque Wesley - Sandra Moore
30. Elwood - Doris Currier
31. Epworth - Sandra Moore
32. Garrison - Marlene Himes
33. Grand Mound - Sandra Moore
34. Guernsey - Joanne Glotfelty
35. IC First - Ruth Farmer
36. IC Korean - Lynn Calvert
37. IC St. Mark's - Ruth Farmer
38. Kozsta - Joanne Glotfelty
39. Ladora - Nola Moser
40. Lisbon - Kay McGuire
41. Maquoketa - Helen Schaub
42. Marengo - Nola Moser
43. Marion First - Shirley Thompson
44. Martelle - Linda Peters
45. Millersburg - Joanne Glotfelty
46. Mount Auburn - Marlene Himes
47. Mount Vernon - Shirley Thompson
48. North English - Lynn Calvert
49. North Liberty - Shirley Thompson
50. Norway - Kay McGuire
51. Olin - Helen Schaub
52. Oxford Junction - Barb Tabor
53. Palo - Marlene Himes
54. Prairie Chapel - Kay McGuire
55. Rochester - Doris Currier
56. Sharon Center - Lynn Calvert
57. Sherrill - Janet Busch
58. Shueyville - Susan Thompson
59. Solon - Shirley Thompson
60. Springdale - Lynn Calvert
61. Springville - Carol Clark
62. Stanwood Union - Barb Tabor
63. Tipton First - Helen Schaub
64. Van Horne Salem - Nola Moser
65. Victor - Linda Peters
66. Vinton Wesley - Marlene Himes
67. Viola - Carol Clark
68. Walker - Ruth Chrystal
69. West Branch - Ruth Farmer
70. Williamsburg St. Paul's - Nola Moser

We appreciate the following former District officers who have said they would be willing to assist the 2009 officers in visiting units: Ruth Chrystal, Mary Fredericksen, Joanne Glotfelty, Ruth Leick, and Nola Moser.

East Central District United Methodist Women 2009 Officers

President

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Member, Committee on Nominations

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East Central District United Methodist Women
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November 2008

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Important Dates for East Central District

November 24, 2008	East Central Ex.Board Meeting	Rockdale, Dubuque
January 26, 2009	East Central Ex. Board Meeting	Buffalo, Cedar Rapids
April 20, 2009	Spiritual Growth Study	Clarence
April 27, 2009	East Central Ex. Board Meeting	Tipton
June 4-7, 2008	Iowa Annual Conference	Ames
July 19-22, 2009	School of Christian Mission	Marshalltown
August 31, 2009	East Central Ex. Board Meeting	DeWitt
September 26, 2009	East Central Annual Meeting	DeWitt
October 3, 2009	Iowa Annual Meeting UMW	Oskaloosa
October 16-18, 2009	Mission Education Event	Marshalltown
November 23, 2009	East Central Ex. Board Meeting	Elwood