



THE FLAME

A NEWSLETTER FOR ARKANSAS CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

"...I now remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you..." (1 Timothy 1:6)

LaDonna Busby, Editor

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May 2009



Our first conference-wide gardening day at Camp Aldersgate was rained out May 2. Thanks to those of you who came on in spite of the rain and thanks also to many others who called to let us know that they would not be coming. We have re-scheduled and plan to have another conference-wide gardening day on May 30. Those who would like to come are invited to bring rakes, gloves and other gardening tools. There is a lot of clean up and weeding involved so come prepared. If you plan to bring a group or come by yourself on May 30 please let me know so that we will know about how many to expect. If you are

unable to come on the conference-wide date but would like to bring a group or come by yourself at another time, please call Dana Addison at Camp Aldersgate and coordinate a time with her. Dana would be pleased to have people come in throughout the week who have a little time and a love of gardening.

If you are unable to help in actual clean up or gardening but would still like to participate in nurturing the Camp Aldersgate Meditation Garden please feel free to make contributions to the garden which will then be used to purchase plants, pots, bird houses, statutes, wind chimes and other items needed to enhance the garden as a place where prayer and mediation will be encouraged.

Camp Aldersgate requests that individuals and groups not send actual items but instead send money that can be used to purchase the items so that the garden will be in tune with the master plan Camp Aldersgate has for the garden area. If you choose to send a check please note on the check that it is for the Meditation Garden and be sure to send it to the Conference Treasurer, so the UMW will receive credit for it. I know that whatever help you can give will be appreciated. What a wonderful opportunity for us to beautify a little corner of God's wonderful creation!

I also am looking forward to seeing many of you Monday, June 15 at the UMW Luncheon at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rogers, AR. We have a great program in the works and I know that all who come will enjoy the time together. Please purchase tickets for the luncheon through the UMC Conference Office.

May the peace of Christ be among us all as we work together as United Methodist Women!

Judy Mattox

Conference President



What a glorious day it is, NO RAIN!!! Hope all you ladies are enjoying the Reading Books this year, the number was small again but the books are excellent. Just a reminder, if you have books that you got at the November Meeting or any other District Meeting, PLEASE, PLEASE drop them in the mail to me, I have lots of request for books and I have very few books to loan. My shelves look empty. I have challenged everyone to try and do Plan 3, remember that youth and children's books count and I have several excellent books that are available, they only take 5-10 minutes to read, can be used as Children's Time reading at your church, you'll enjoy the book and so will the children.



Time to Read!

As always you can call (870) 816-0838 cell 870-829-3864 home or email me with your request MICKIEDONNA@YAHOO.COM.

As some of you know I am doing the Conference Lending Library for the last year, if you are interested in reading and taking over this job, please let Judy Mattox or myself know. It is NOT always a easy job, but the rewards are wonderful

Mickie Cox, Conference Lending Librarian

“Do not be conformed to the ways of the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2

Recently I wrote in my journal, “If you haven’t seen the devil face to face. . .maybe you are going in the same direction!” I don’t remember where I heard that very profound statement so I can’t give credit to the writer. But it definitely stayed with me. It helped me face the walls in my life that keep me from God.



There are so many barriers in our mind that keep us from God—anger, bitterness, hate, resentment, jealousy, laziness, gossip, apathy, prejudice—just to name a few. There are also diversions in our world that keep us from being who we really are. We let the world--and even our friends and family--dictate what we want, what we see, what we put in our bodies. These diversions keep us from knowing our true destiny in this world.

The human mind is a wonderful creation. It reasons, remembers, describes, solves problems and dreams. It enables us to have genuine fears, hopes, and ambitions. Reverend F. Harry Daniel has said, “Our mind is developed by procedures which stimulate thought, supply information, analyze experience, and place human events into patterns of meaning and so on. But it also needs something else: a continuing process of transformation that renews life.”

To be transformed means to change—to be made different in nature or form. In order for our minds to change or be transformed we have to make a conscience effort to do so. Transformation means getting our minds changed. We need to bring our beliefs and attitudes to a new awareness that will create new possibilities. Prayer, bible Study, worship, spiritual retreats, the School of Christian Mission, Emmaus Walks, medical crises, even natural disasters help bring us to that transformation.

We say that Christ is in our heart, but is He in our minds, too? Only when Christ is in our mind, can we be truly changed—transformed. Transformation enables us to discover who we really are. It changes what we are, so that we can become what God intends. Only then can we begin to understand our true destiny.

Prayer: Our Creator God, we live in a world filled with diversions and barriers. Open our minds and our hearts to your transformation so that we can understand our God-given possibilities. Help us to remember that we are a community of believers, connected to each other, loving and serving You together.

Terry Gregory
Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator



Who does Camp Aldersgate serve?

Camp Aldersgate serves children, youth and seniors through a variety of programs and opportunities. The camp offers year round options for children wishing to participate in weekend respite camps, Friday-Sunday, as well as week long summer camps, Sunday-Friday. The weekend camps allow the families a much needed rest period while their children are well cared for and having a wonderful time at Camp Aldersgate in a medically supervised environment. The week long summer camps allow for a variety of activities to take place such as swimming, hiking, canoeing, scuba diving, arts and crafts and many other fun things for children 6-18 years of age. Each week will be specific to their medical needs such as muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, autism, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, and many others which allows for consistency in medical care and supervision throughout their time at Camp. Our Senior Adults meet once a week on Thursdays for companionship, bean bag baseball, bridge, health assessments, songs, arts and crafts, Bible study, and many other enjoyable activities. We are truly blessed and proud of the needs that are served through Camp Aldersgate in the community!



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(2ND in 4-part series to better acquaint Flame readers with our very own Camp Aldersgate)

Mission Opportunities



Opportunities for Mission Today – Right Around the Corner

I love summer! I know what you're thinking...she's a teacher, of course she would love summer... but that's where you are wrong! Summer is the best time of the year to wrap up all the Mission Today efforts a unit has been working on all year to earn the "Jewel Unit" award that I hope all units are striving to achieve this year.

The most obvious "Mission" event of summer is our Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission, which will be held July 30- August 2 on the campus of Hendrix College. Many criteria for Mission Today can be met by attending ACSOCM and/or supporting others who are attending the school. If only one member of a unit attends criteria #6 has been met. If a unit

contributes to the ETW Fund, which supports scholarships to ACSOCM, criteria #11 has been met. Bringing items for children's disaster kits to ACSOCM, which will be sent to Rice Depot to be distributed throughout the state as needed, will satisfy both criteria #13 and #14. In addition, if a unit chooses to supply a scholarship for an ethnic minority to attend ACSOCM this will serve as an action to implement the Charter for Racial Justice and criteria #8 will be satisfied.

Just purchasing items in the Resource Room while at ACSOCM will help your unit reach "Jewel" status. Reading program books, Prayer Calendars, study books for all the current mission studies, and many times the new Program Books are available for purchase.

If you haven't attended School of Christian Mission in the past, put it on your "Things to Do" list for the summer. If you need financial assistance, please contact me for scholarship information. If you haven't attended in the past few years, come back and join us once again. The slate of study leaders this year is awesome and the studies look to be both challenging as well as inspirational! If you are a regular attendee and don't feel like your summer is complete unless you've spent 4 glorious days on the campus of Hendrix, enjoying the food, fun, and fellowship...and oh yes, the super studies... don't wait until the last minute to register this year as **we will adhere to deadlines as printed in registration materials and no walk-ins will be accepted.**

Meanwhile, get your Mission Today brochures out and start checking your criteria now before the August 15 deadline sneaks up on you! My hope is that every district in our conference increases Mission Today participation because that will show me that United Methodist Women across the state are *still* fulfilling our Purpose, and isn't that what it's all about?

Grace and Peace,
Diana Hendricks, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation
dianah1954@hotmail.com



The Arkansas Conference had a wonderful report to send to Women's Division at the end of the first quarter! We must continue to keep up the good work. I would strongly encourage you to continue to collect for the Mile of Pennies. This really makes a difference in helping us with our pledge. District Treasurers, please stress this in your districts. Some districts had good reports in this area. This doesn't take much for all of us to be able to participate. Let us be mindful that the unit reports for 5 Star Units, 5 Star Woman, Mile of Pennies, ETW and MIWATCH will be due with your 2nd Quarter Report to me on July 10. If you have any questions concerning this, please contact me. Also District Treasurers, our Finance Meeting will be Friday, August 21. I don't know where we will meet but it will be at the same location as the Conference Mission Team Meeting. We will conduct our business Friday night. Additional information will be forthcoming.

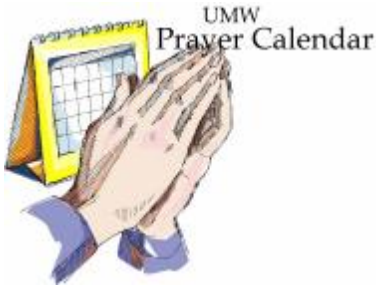


From the Treasurer

Keep up the good mission work!!
Jo Webber, Conference Treasurer
AR Conference Treasurer



Green Moment: After children's drawings and paintings have been displayed for a while they can be used to wrap presents - this also makes the present special.



GOT PURPOSE?

We are all working for the same purpose----one way to be a caring Christian is by use of the Prayer Calendar. The Prayer Calendar provides guidance for daily reflections, highlights mission projects supported by the United Methodist Church and women's mission giving. It encourages us to be in prayer for the people and projects listed in the calendar. Birthday listings and contact information gives an opportunity to be supportive of people serving in mission. Giving the Prayer

Calendar as a gift makes others aware of the mission work of the United Methodist Church being done in the United States and around the world. I am enjoying my 2009 Calendar, with art work submitted by children from around the world.

Today would be an important time to remember someone serving away from home!! Why not send a card or letter to let them know that we care?

IN CHRISTIAN LOVE,
GOLDIE HAYNES, SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES



GREEN
MOMENT!

While you brush your teeth you can save 4 gallons of water simply by turning off the faucet while you brush. A family of 4 can save 200 gallons of water a week!

Take just a moment and think GREEN!!!



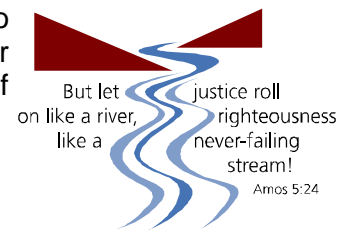
I encourage all District Social Action Coordinators to be in contact with their units and to assist them with their Charter Club membership. I would like to thank all units who are continuing members and welcome new units. All District Social Action Coordinators and District Presidents and a few other mission team members have received the revised 2009/2010 brochure and action report form. Please mail them to your units and make them aware of the changes and deadline dates. My deadline is June 30th. Please adhere to the deadline date. District Presidents, if you do not have a Social Action person, please step in and help these units.

I am amazed at how many social issues there are that need to be addressed. We continue our search for volunteers to transport children in the MIWATCH program.

For every difference that makes us unique, there is a common thread which connects us all. We share the need for home and community, for love and respect. May these common threads form a beautiful world in which all people and all cultures are honored.

As United Methodist Women we are called to justice—taking a stand for those who don't always have a voice or vote. I pray that we continue to stand bold in our conviction and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are a people of **PURPOSE**, and that **PURPOSE** calls us to action.

Mary Blessingame
Conference Mission Coordinator for Social Action



“This Isn't The Same Old UMW!”

The United Methodist Women Luncheon during Annual Conference will be 12:00 p.m., Monday, June 15 at the Embassy Suites in Rogers. A skit highlighting changes in the UMW organization will bring remembrances and some laughter (we hope). Ladies from Rogers First United Methodist Women are providing the table decorations. Tickets will be available through the Arkansas Conference office on-line registration or contact any Conference Officer for help! We hope to fill the room with memories, laughter and wonderful fellowship



Annual UMW
Luncheon



“Let’s Celebrate Together”

Let’s join together and celebrate!! In support of our focus on missions during the 2009 Annual Conference of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, the conference’s Sending Team will host a luncheon on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. This will be a time to celebrate all of God’s Missions that United Methodists in Arkansas support and serve as participants. Our emphasis on mission relates to the following of John Wesley and his teachings.



CELEBRATION LUNCHEON!

We invite all laity and clergy to attend the luncheon that will be held in the Commerce Ballroom of the Convention Center. Tickets are \$15.00 each and will be available through the on-line registration for Annual Conference. Reverend Ed Paup, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries will be our keynote speaker.

The Sending Team serves as the coordinator of various committees and commission within the conference who are related to our mission work. They include the Board of Church and Society, Board of Global Ministries, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, Committee on Mission Personnel, Committee on Parish and Community Development, and the Committee on Volunteers in Mission. In addition to recognizing the mission work of the Sending Team, United Methodist Women will be recognized too. Annual awards for the Volunteers in Mission will be presented.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for our special event this year as we join together in

“Celebrating God’s Missions!”



The 2009 UMW Annual Meeting will be Saturday, November 14, 2009 at First United Methodist Church, Russellville. Conference awards will be presented, officers for 2010 will be elected – so much will be going on!

Our keynote speaker will be Harriet Jane Olson, Deputy General Secretary of Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. The theme for this meeting is “Come To The Table With Purpose”. We are very excited about having Harriet with us for this meeting.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this special meeting.

Judy Jacobs, Conference Vice President



**2009 SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION
JULY 30-AUGUST 2
HENDRIX COLLEGE – CONWAY, ARKANSAS**

**Food and Faith (Spiritual Growth Study)
The Beauty and Courage of Sudan (Geographic Study)
Native American Survival (Issues Study)**

Classes available for children Pre-K to adult

Scholarships available – contact Diana Hendricks at 870.448.5991 or dianah1954@hotmail.com

**On-line registration at: arumc.org Registration deadline is July 15
NO WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

2009 DEAN: REVEREND STEVE COPLEY

**Co-Sponsored by: Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women
Arkansas Conference Board of Global Ministries**

YA’LL COME!!!!

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church
United Methodist Women
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Little Rock, AR 72203

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This newsletter sent with a prayer for



OUR 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.

YOU!

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR
SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION
IS JULY 15TH!**



DEADLINES

**DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOCM IS
JUNE 15TH! CONTACT DIANA HENDRICKS at 870.448.5991**

DEADLINE TO REPORT UNIT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009:

- Mission Today Jewel & Mission Studies reports - due 8/15 - to your District Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator
- Charter for Racial Justice reports – due 6/30 – to your District Social Action Coordinator
- Reading Program reports – due 8/15 – to your District Program Resources Coordinator
- Names of unit members who have died since our last Annual Meeting – due 8/15 – to your District Spiritual Growth Coordinator