



# 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**

**Volume 6, Issue 1**

**February 2009**

### From the President



Greetings to you all in the name of Christ who strengthens us!

It is already February of 2009 and United Methodist Women in the Arkansas Conference have many opportunities before us this year to make mission happen in our communities, our state, and our world. I would like to share a couple of those opportunities with you now.

- We have an opportunity to meet our pledge to mission this year. We fell short \$20,000 last year and we have an opportunity to make sure that doesn't happen again. People all over the world are feeling the impact of the current economic conditions that exist today. That means that our gifts to mission are even more needed so that our work to

benefit women and children all over the globe can continue uninterrupted. United Methodist Women are known for their generous, mission-minded hearts so let's rise to this challenge!

- We have an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Camp Aldersgate. This extraordinary camp provides camping programs for children with medical, developmental and physical challenges as well as other important ministries. This year will bring several new opportunities for us to support Camp Aldersgate with our time and talents. Our conference mission team is asking local units to get their hands "dirty" by helping to enhance and maintain the prayer garden at Camp Aldersgate. You will find more about these opportunities elsewhere in this newsletter.

These are just two of the many opportunities that await us as United Methodist Women. You are familiar with many of the others: MIWATCH, ASOCM, Charter for Racial Justice, Elizabeth Thornberg Workman Scholarship Fund, and many more. Each of these vital ministries needs our prayers and attention. Let's embrace the opportunities before us.

We are United Methodist Women and we have a PURPOSE!

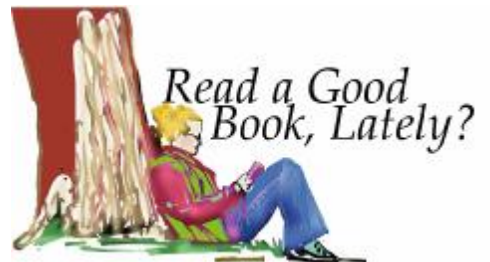
Judy Mattox,  
Conference UMW President



For more than 100 years the UMW (and their predecessors) has been involved in the Reading Program as a study opportunity. One purpose of the program is to increase sensitivity to all human beings - their needs, interests, and concerns.

The books are chosen with the intention of broadening our views concerning today's issues. What a great opportunity that leads to faith and action!

Since the Reading Program is a major part of our mission education, each District Secretary of Program Resources has committed to work toward increasing the number of reading participants for this year. I encourage each of you to participate in the completion of one of the reading plans.



Blessings,  
Goldie Haynes, Program Resources



Save energy - reduce your carbon footprint! Use public transportation, carpool, walk, or bike whenever possible to avoid using your car.

**Take a moment and think GREEN!!!**

As we begin the 19<sup>th</sup> year of our Ministries to Incarcerated Women and Their Children (MIWATCH) program, we have 13 incarcerated mothers with 27 children in our program. An additional 23 women have applied to be in MIWATCH and we are waiting for the caregivers of their children to give us permission to transport these families. I am receiving new applications each month. The incarcerated mothers are at the McPherson Women's Unit in Newport and the Hawkins Women's Unit in Wrightsville. We are still in need of volunteers in Texarkana, Sheridan and Rogers to transport our families to Newport.



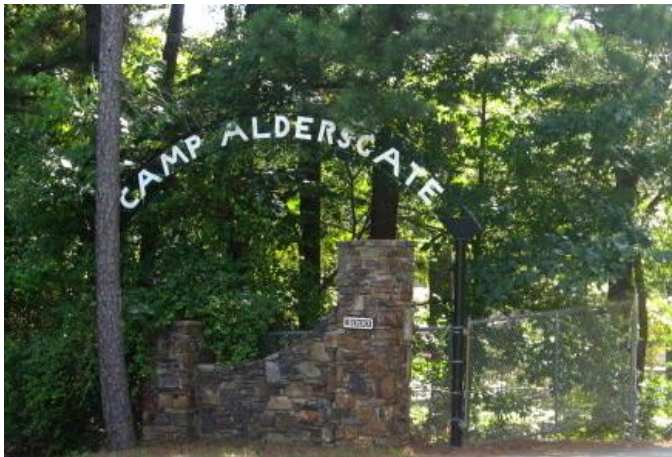
First United Methodist Church and Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock and First United Methodist Church in Blytheville continue to provide their church vans for monthly MIWATCH visits. MIWATCH volunteers in these churches rotate driving responsibilities. We also have seven volunteers who use their personal cars for the monthly trips. Local UMW Units and individual UMW members are providing financial support for MIWATCH. These monies are held by our Conference UMW treasurer and disbursed as needed for transportation and food costs, as well as some administrative expenses.

We have purchased a bookcase for the visiting room at the McPherson Women's Unit and the children's books, coloring books and crayons which were donated last year have been placed there. Longtime MIWATCH volunteer Kathy Crone coordinated this effort for us.

Once again this year, Christmas gifts were given to the children in our MIWATCH program. The following churches, UMW units and individual purchased the gifts: 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Jacksonville UMW, Sardis UMW, Marshall UMW, McCabe UMW, 1st UMC Malvern UMW, Good Faith/Carr UMW, Fairview Camden UMW, Sharon Womack, and Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church Sunday School classes and Mann Christ Care Group. Thanks to all those who helped provide these gifts.

Please continue to hold this important UMW ministry in your prayers and mission commitment.

Freddie Nixon, MIWATCH Coordinator



In the summer of 1947, Camp Aldersgate was formally dedicated. Located on the grounds of a former turkey farm, the camp held its first programs in a renovated farmhouse and turkey brooder houses. Affiliated in the beginning as it is today with the United Methodist Church, the purpose of the new camp was to provide a place where people of different races could come together peacefully to meet and work on church and community development projects. Camp Aldersgate was one of the first integrated facilities in the United States. The name "Aldersgate" was suggested in honor of John Wesley the founder of Methodism, who felt his heart "strangely warmed" at a small meeting house on Aldersgate Road in London.

Many people continue to feel their hearts warmed as they enter the camp to serve others!

During the 70's, the summer medical camps began with a one-week camp for 12 children who had medical conditions that prevented them from attending other camps. Today, the Camp continues its dedication to service. Over 500 children with medical disabilities attended Camp Aldersgate last year, along with many Senior Adults who participate weekly in a Seniors Day Out program.

For more information or to arrange a tour for your unit or church please contact:

Dana Addison, Director of Development  
Camp Aldersgate [www.campaldersgate.net](http://www.campaldersgate.net)  
2000 Aldersgate Road Little Rock, AR 72205  
[daddison@campaldersgate.net](mailto:daddison@campaldersgate.net)  
501.225.1444 x230

Editor's note: This is the first in a 4-part series to better acquaint the Arkansas Conference UMW with the wonderful Camp Aldersgate – our very own mission project in the state of Arkansas!

**Osment-Neil Scholarship**

The Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women are accepting scholarship applications from women called to Christian careers. The scholarships are distributed annually to women attending higher education institutions to help them defray the costs of preparing for Christian service.

In 1978, a \$12,500 Endowment fund was established as a scholarship fund in honor of Mildred Osment (of Jonesboro) and Virginia Neil (of West Memphis) by a Mrs. Huff (of Newport). The Women's Division handles this fund, invests it, and the interest earned from this endowment is used for the scholarships. This scholarship is available to any woman who is pursuing a degree in a church-related career and meets the qualifications for this scholarship. It will provide some nominal assistance with college expenses.

Both Mildred Osment and Virginia Neil were active in and supportive of the Women's mission programs in the church, the Women's Society of Christian Service, the Wesleyan Service Guild, and the present day organization, the United Methodist Women. Their service will be carried on by women studying to devote their time to Christian careers.

Applications may be obtained from District UMW treasurers or by contacting the Conference UMW treasurer, Jo Webber. Do you know someone who could benefit from this – think about it!

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**Scholarship Opportunity**



One of the criteria for becoming a Mission Today Unit is to do something for Camp Aldersgate. The Conference Mission Team was blessed to meet at the Camp for their January Planning Meeting. What an exciting opportunity for us! Your Conference Mission Team has decided to "adopt" the camp's Prayer Garden as the conference-wide UMW project for 2009. Sara Wacaster, Executive Director, and Dana Addison, Development Director, were both VERY excited that we were willing to take this project on! Conference UMW units and individuals will have 2 options of working in the spring: The week of **April 20-24** is "Clean-Up" week and much raking, etc. will need to be done in that area. Those who can't come then may choose to come on Saturday, **May 2** to plant flowers, etc. The planning/grounds committee

at the camp will determine the "plan" of what will be planted/placed in the garden and Dana will provide us with a list prior to May 2 of needs so units/individuals can donate needed items/plants/materials to accomplish our task.

In the fall, a week will be set aside in **September**, prior to the Annual Fish Fry, to "spruce up" the garden and units/individuals may once again volunteer to work get things in order before the event. Then later in the fall (**probably October 31**) we will have a work day to plant bulbs, etc. to get the garden ready for winter. Our work in the garden will be ongoing and any unit/individual wishing to volunteer to maintain the garden will be welcome to volunteer any time during the year. There will always be something (raking, weeding, etc.) that a few dedicated women can accomplish in a short period of time.

I hope your unit will become involved in Camp Aldersgate this year – this is our opportunity for "hands on mission" work here at home in Arkansas. What a blessing for all of us!

Diana Hendricks, Conference Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT  
MAY 15-16 CAMP TANAKO, HOT SPRINGS

**MIND YOUR SPIRIT'S BODY**

Reverend Kay Wiggins, presenter



SEE INSERT FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENT  
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AND LET YOUR BODY FIND REST!

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Women  
#2 Trudie Kibbee Reed Drive  
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!**

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 be the program and the Rogers First United Methodist Women are providing the table decorations. Tickets will be available through the Arkansas Conference office on-line registration.



The 2009 UMW Annual Meeting will be Saturday, November 14, 2009 at First United Methodist Church, Russellville. 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.

More information in coming issues of the Flame!

Judy Jacobs, Conference Vice President

One of the most wonderful gifts that God has given us is our ability to communicate. Pastors use their pulpits. Mothers communicate with the softest of touches from their hands. We hear God through our spirits. Communication is so very important. It is the way we keep up with what is happening in our world – near and far. What happens when communication is lost? I think that many of us have the answer to that following the ice storms in early February. I read where some began to think they were all alone and forgotten.

I don't want anyone to feel that way when it comes to news from the Arkansas Conference Mission Team. Please don't lose your communication with *The Flame*.

If you move or change unit leadership positions, please send me the new information. I want to keep as accurate a data base as possible. Send changes to: LaDonna Busby  
717 Sidney Street  
Batesville, AR 72501



And if your e-mail address changes (and there are some people who change theirs every other month), drop me an e-mail with the change:

[naomi@arkansas.net](mailto:naomi@arkansas.net)

Anyone can receive this newsletter by e-mail, just drop me a note. It is prettier in color!

**Let's communicate with each other in 2009!**  
LaDonna Busby, Conference Communications

*UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT*

*May 15-16, 2009*

*Camp Tanako  
Hot Springs, Arkansas*

*MIND YOUR SPIRIT'S BODY  
Kay Wiggins*

Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15 & at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16. Please note: There are bunk beds at Camp Tanako so please indicate if you need a lower bunk. There will be NO evening meal provided.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 16. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Cost for Friday & Saturday: \$35.00  
Cost for Saturday only: \$16.00  
Yoga mat and eye pillow (Optional): \$20.00

.....  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
I will be there Friday & Saturday. \_\_\_\_\_  
I need a lower bunk. \_\_\_\_\_  
I will be there Saturday only. \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration to: Sylvia Griffin, 106 Hood Place, Hot Springs, AR 71913**  
**Or email information to [sjgriffin@aristotle.net](mailto:sjgriffin@aristotle.net)**

**United Methodist Women  
Spiritual Growth Retreat  
“Mind Your Spirit’s Body”  
Kay Wiggins, Speaker  
May 15-16, 2009  
Camp Tanako  
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

**Retreat Schedule**

<b>Friday, May 15, 2009</b>	6:00---7:00 p.m.	Registration/Light Snacks
	7:00---8:00 p.m.	Speaker
	8:00---9:00 p.m.	Small Groups
	9:00---9:30 p.m.	Devotional
	9:30--10:30 p.m.	Gathering
<b>Saturday, May 16, 2009</b>	8:00---9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
	8:30---9:00 a.m.	Registration
	9:00---9:30 a.m.	Break
	9:30--10:30 a.m.	Speaker
	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Small Groups
	11:30-12:30 p.m.	Lunch
	12:30--1:30 p.m.	Speaker
	1:30---2:30 p.m.	Small Groups
2:30---3:00 p.m.	Closing	

**What to Bring:** Bible, pen, bedding, comfortable clothes, comfortable shoes

**Registrar:** Sylvia Griffin, 106 Hood Place, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913  
501-609-9730, [sjgriffin@aristotle.net](mailto:sjgriffin@aristotle.net)

**Directions to Camp Tanako:**

From Hot Springs:

- Take Hwy 7 (Central Ave.) South
- Continue to Hwy 290
- Turn left
- Proceed 9 miles
- Tanako will be on the left

From I-30

Take Exit 97 onto Hwy 171  
West on Hwy 171 for about 8 miles  
Turn Left onto Hwy 290  
proceed 1 mile  
Tanako will be on the right