



# THE FLAME

## A NEWSLETTER FOR ARKANSAS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

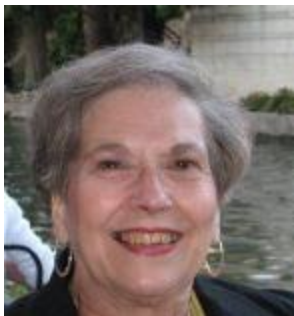
"...I now remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you..." (1 Timothy 1:6)

**LaDonna Busby, Editor**

**Volume 9, Issue 1**

**February 2011**

January has flown by... The Mission Team met and 2011 is up and flying too. Many of you have celebrated United Methodist Women on UMW Sunday. The United Methodist Women do have much to celebrate. We continue to advocate for women, children and youth; we continue to build strong supportive bonds in our local units; and we continue to be provided spiritual guidance for our faith walk. The United Methodist Women programs have so much to offer members. Be sure you extend an invitation to all women in your area to join United Methodist Women.



The United Methodist Women Annual Conference Luncheon will be on Monday, June 6 in the DeSoto Ballroom of the Austin Hotel. Tickets are \$15. They may be purchased when registering for Annual Conference or they may be purchased from District Presidents.

Judy Jacobs, President  
Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women

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In January 2011, *New World Outlook* celebrated it's 100<sup>th</sup> year of continuous publication! What a blessing it has been for members of The United Methodist Women to be educated for mission through use of this magazine. Our involvement has been extended in global outreach in all places missionaries serve – in action, support and prayer. "Together we can make things happen". *The Response* magazine is another good source for members of The United Methodist Women to interpret the Purpose and to strengthen our organization. A gift subscription to either of these magazines for a church member or shut-in can be a wonderful mission opportunity.



In Christian Love,  
Goldie Haynes, Arkansas Conference Secretary of Program Resources

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Ladies of the Arkansas Conference:



I come at this time to update you on our finances. I stated at the annual meeting, it was looking very grim as to us making the Conference pledge. The Finance Committee lowered the pledge to Women's Division from \$300,000.00 to **\$275,000.00** in 2010, to make it more attainable. Unfortunately, we did not meet this amount, falling short by about \$30,000. At this time, we must keep up what we did last year. Each district and the Conference must come up with \$3,000 each to help make up this deficit for 2011.

When planning your district spring and fall meetings, **please** designate your offerings for Mission Giving. This alone will not make up the deficit, but it is a start. Also, we must look at cutting expenses in our budgets. Each district Coordinator for Mission Education and interpretation has a wonderful DVD available for showing at a meeting or program, etc. Please take advantage of this tool.

If you have any suggestions or ideas that would be a solution to this problem, please let me know. I believe we can work together to resolve this issue.

I have no doubt that i will be able to stand at the 2011 Annual Meeting and say that we will make our pledge to Women's Division. I ask that you be in prayer with me that this will happen.

Peace,  
Jo Webber, Treasurer, Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women

**MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH**

On this beautiful winter and snowy day I am writing my greetings to all of you wonderful United Methodist Women. By the time you read this it will probably be a warm winter day, but that is Arkansas and we have to love it.

The officers training held at First United Methodist in Little Rock in 2010 was attended by six Mission Coordinators for Membership Nurture and Outreach and we had a great time learning from each other. At this time, all the districts have a Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach and all of them have received a packet of information and instructions for the coming year. The important forms to be completed at this time are the membership count forms. Some of the district coordinators are having a very difficult time collecting the information they need from their local units. Please, local unit officers, see that this membership count report is completed for your unit and sent in to your District Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach. While numbers are not the most important information we need, we do need to know how many active units and active members are in the Arkansas Conference.

Good news, I have been notified by the North District, Jackye Adams, District Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach that the Hardy UMC has reorganized their unit. They are sending in the reorganization forms to the Women’s Division and I hope to hear from them again, soon.

I was also notified that the Living Waters UMC in Northwest District has formed a unit. Please remember, Women’s Division needs to be notified of any new or reorganized units before we will receive credit for them. Please pray for the new and reorganized unit members, that they will grow spiritually and be able to provide missions to women, children and youth. I urge all of you to work with our churches that do not have a unit at this time.

Your Conference Mission Team encourages you to attend as many district and conference meetings as possible. You can make lasting friends and learn of new mission opportunities each time you attend these events. Remember to mark your calendar for the Arkansas School of Christian Mission for July 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> for 2011.

Seek me out at all the special events you attend and if we are not already friends, let’s be friends.

Loma Speck

Arkansas Conference Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach



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Scholarships

**ETW ~ Why Think “Early”?**

Many times units plan to donate scholarships to the ETW fund so that children and youth may attend Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission *and* many times the unit uses the action to qualify for the Charter for Racial Justice Club. Has your unit considered doing this in the *first* quarter of the year so that those monies would be available early to fund scholarships for the coming year?

Consider that the deadline for scholarships is June 15 and funding of scholarships is based on monies received by the conference treasurer prior to that date. If a unit doesn’t send a scholarship in until after June 15 it sometimes doesn’t reach the conference treasurer until well after all scholarships have been awarded. Therefore, that money/scholarship can’t be used until the following year. Please consider this and plan accordingly. All donations to the ETW Fund, either as a scholarship or as \$1.00 per member donations, should reach the conference treasurer (by way of the district treasurer) *early* in the United Methodist Women year to be fully utilized within that year.

If your unit hasn’t supported the ETW fund in the past, why not consider it as a goal for 2011? Only 66 units contributed to the ETW fund last year! Some districts had as few as four units helping support this vital means of sending youth and children to Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission. Your contribution to this fund will allow us to continue providing financial assistance in the future. Please consider donating \$1.00 per member to this fund.

Diana Hendricks  
Scholarship Chair  
Arkansas School of Christian Mission

**“No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8**

Social Issues – Women’s Rights, Immigration, Health Care, Environment, Economic Justice, Racial Justice, Public Education, Child Advocacy, Global Issues and Domestic Violence are the focus of the United Methodist Women’s advocacy and mission work.

Racial Justice is one of the Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women’s priority issues and an on-going focus of mission work.

I hope everyone attending the last Annual Meeting took the program and brochure back to their unit to further explore issues surrounding racial injustice and racial justice and somehow were able to put it into action. By now, all units should have received the up-dated brochure and the new program that was added through their District Social Action Coordinator. I did notice in some of the District Directories, I received, the old brochure and action form had been printed. The reporting period is June to June (past year to current year). My deadline date is June 30, 2011. Please send your reports to your DISTRICT Social Action Coordinator and check with her if you have any questions or need more forms or brochures. Please put your report on the current form and be sure to put your district name at the top of the form.



Thanks to all units who continue to be members of the Charter for Racial Justice Club and also to those units new to the club. I have talked to some units who are doing actions concerning racial justice, but they just don’t realize it. My thanks, also, to everyone who participated in the scenarios at the Annual Meeting.

Please continue to support the Ministries to Incarcerated Women and Their Children (MIWATCH) program. Contact Conference Secretary, Helen Emerson, if you have questions or can help with this program. I encourage all units to continue to support and promote the observance of Children’s Sabbath Sunday. This Sunday has the mission to ensure children a healthy, fair and safe start in life and a successful passage to adulthood. The program book, all or part of it, can be down-loaded from the web site of the Children’s Defense League. [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

Let us continue to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.

Mary Blassingame, Conference Coordinator for Social Action

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Would you like to serve on the Conference Mission team? The Nominating committee is looking for women wanting to serve as a Conference Officer. Contact me or a member of the Committee if you would like to be considered for the Conference Mission Team!



Barbara Alexander, Chairperson Nominations  
870-574-0133 [lbalex@oeccwildblue.com](mailto:lbalex@oeccwildblue.com)

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Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Mrs. Billie Washington. Many may remember Billie, who was a member of Wesley UMC in Little Rock and had worked tirelessly with the United Methodist Women in her local unit, on the former Little Rock District and Little Rock Conference Mission Teams and in many other capacities. She was also very active in her local church. Billie died on Thursday, January 27, 2011. The United Methodist Women of Wesley UMC will have a “Celebration of Remembrance” of Billie’s life on Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 p.m. at Wesley UMC, 1109 S. State Street, Little Rock.

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**FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT**

I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Vice President for the next 2 years. Judy Jacobs is a hard act to follow, but she left me with my first year partially planned, so "Thank you, Judy". If any of you have a speaker or program that you would like to see at one of the meetings, please let me know. I want to give you programs that will be interesting and informative and will welcome any input.

Celia Wadsworth, Conference UMW Vice President



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This newsletter sent with a prayer for

**YOU!**

**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.

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**IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO BE AHEAD OF THE GAME!**

Even though we're in the midst of winter it's never too early to start planning for your summer by marking July 27-30 for this year's Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission. The planning team has adopted a new schedule for the school that will start with registration on Wednesday afternoon and conclude on Saturday afternoon. Not only is this a cost-cutting measure in these hard economic times but will allow all participants and study leaders to attend their home church service on Sunday.

If you know of someone- adult, youth, or child, male or female- who might need financial assistance please get a copy of the scholarship guidelines from your district Education and Interpretation Coordinator as soon as possible and get the application submitted *soon!* The sooner we know how many are in financial need, the more efficiently we can serve those who need our help

One of the greatest joys as scholarship chair for the school is to meet the new participants who have been able to attend due to receiving a scholarship, so please encourage any new members of United Methodist Women or those who have never attended School of Christian Mission to complete an application and send it in quickly.

Summer will be here soon and we don't want this opportunity to pass you by!

Diana Hendricks  
Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation  
Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women



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Sarah Wacaster , Executive Director of Camp Aldersgate, and Judy Jacobs, Conference UMW President will be sending out a joint letter to all Unit Presidents in March, so please be watching for it in the mail. The letter will highlight the longstanding relationship and history between the UMW and Camp, and it will also ask each unit to put Camp Aldersgate in their 2011 budget. Each Unit will also be encouraged to mark their calendars for the Annual Fish Fry which takes place in September. If you have any questions about how your Unit can get more involved in mission and ministry of the Camp, don't hesitate to call Camp Aldersgate at 501-225-1444.



# "FINDING PEACE"

CAMP TANAKO

May 13-14, 2011

Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women  
Spiritual Growth Retreat  
Speaker: Reverend Pam Estes

## Information

Friday night, May 13 & Saturday, May 14---\$35.00 which includes your room, breakfast & lunch  
Saturday only---\$15.00 which includes breakfast and lunch. There will be volunteers to help with bags.

Please make checks payable to: Arkansas Conference UMW & send to: Becky Campbell  
Camp Tanako phone # 501-262-2600 C/O Camp Tanako  
Camp Tanako email: [tanako@arkansas.net](mailto:tanako@arkansas.net) 4301 Highway 290  
Hot Springs, AR 71913

## Schedule

Friday:	Registration/Snacks	6:30 p.m.
Saturday:	Breakfast/Registration	8:00 a.m.
	Closing	2:30 p.m.

## Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed:

Friday Only--\$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday & Saturday--\$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_