



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 2

May 2011

Summer time is a busy time for the Conference United Methodist Women. The UMW Annual Conference Luncheon will be on Monday, June 6 in the DeSoto Ballroom of the Austin Hotel, 305 Malvern Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901. Tickets are \$15 and they may be purchased when registering for Annual Conference or some may be available at the ticket table at AC.



The Women's Division Board voted at their spring meeting to become structurally separate from the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) while remaining "missionally connected" in staff configuration. The directors of GBGM also approved this proposal at their spring meeting. The Women's Division Board would be reduced from a 50 member board to 25 members that meet semi-annually. There would also be a Program Advisory Group with representatives from every conference. This group would be advisory to the board of directors. This arrangement opens the door for more women throughout the five jurisdictions to be able to participate in the programming of United Methodist Women.

Because some of the United Methodist Women's structures are described in the Book of Discipline, some legislation will have to be brought forward at General Conference for vote. It is important that United Methodist Women actively participate in this year's Annual Conference election of voting delegates to the 2012 General Conference. We need delegates who are interested in and support the United Methodist Women.

Also in June the Arkansas Conference Mission Team and School of Christian Mission Study Leaders will be attending Regional School for training. We will have about 24 attending the West Gulf School in Abilene, Texas.

In July our attention will be on the Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission at Hendrix College in Conway. The school will begin on Wednesday, July 27 and end on Saturday, July 30. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn, to be spiritually enriched and to fellowship. Be sure you are registered to attend.

The Conference Mission Team will meet in August for their annual late summer planning meeting. This is when we look at the budget, standing rules, officer nominations and numerous other items. It is when we evaluate this year and start planning for next year.

The summer months are a busy and important time for United Methodist Women showing faith, hope and love in action.

Judy Jacobs, President
Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women

Just another reminder about what great joy you can find by agreeing to serve as a Conference United Methodist Women officer. Wouldn't you like this great opportunity? 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@oecwildblue.com**



The registration brochures for the Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission were mailed out last week and should have been received by now. As I am sure you have noticed, the address is yours, but the name is not. Even though there was a mix-up, this doesn't affect the registration process at all, since the name on the front of the brochure will not be returned at all. Just go ahead and use the registration form with your information and everything will work out with no problem. Just a reminder that each person attending will need to have their own registration form, so feel free to make as many copies as you like. Also, if you know of someone that didn't get a brochure, let me know and I can get them one, preferably by email, but I will get one to them.



A few reminders:

- The ACSCM will begin on Wednesday, July 27 and will end on Saturday, July 30
- There is **NO** online registration this year.
- All registrations need to be mailed directly to me: Beth Cobb, 3400 S. 91st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903
- The deadlines are as follows: special needs housing - June 20, early bird registration - June 30, child care requests - June 30, registration - July 15. All of these deadlines will be **STRICTLY** adhered to - no exceptions.

Thanks,
Beth Cobb, Registrar, Arkansas Conference School Christian Mission

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Ladies – what a rich opportunity we have in this year's Reading Program list. There are so many wonderful books in all the categories it is hard for me to pick a favorite, so I will just list several that I have enjoyed or that have caught my eye:



Program Resources

- In Education for Mission: *My Sister The Father* – an intriguing title. Hope to get to this one soon!
- In Leadership Development: *This Child Will be Great* – what a fascinating story of strength and determination in the autobiography of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first woman president of Liberia.
- In Nurturing for Community: *Same Kind of Different as Me* – a delightful true story of the friendship that grows between two vastly different persons. This was a great book to show that we all may be different but in reality we are so very much the same.
- In Social Action (one of the tougher categories): *The Heart of Racial Justice* – I have not read this yet but it is on my list to do so. This book addresses the racial divide that still remains in our churches. The Reading Program brochure asks the question: "Are you ready to find out how soul change leads to social change?" Are we?
- In Spiritual Growth (one of the easiest categories): *The Noticer* – without a doubt, my favorite book on the list. If you enjoyed and received a blessing reading *The Shack*, you will find great wisdom and truth in this short book. I have recommended this book to so many – it is wonderful.
- My own list – *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. My daughter gave this to me for Mother's Day. It is about African American maids working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi during the early 1960s. It is a wonderful read, the kind that provokes thought and might make some uncomfortable.

So there you have it – have great summer and do some reading!

LaDonna Busby, Editor

Goldie Haynes, Conference Secretary of Program Resources, was out of state when I asked for articles. Please see her in the Program Resource room at School of Christian Mission and Annual Meeting. I am sure she will have some of these books and many more that you will find worth your time!

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**ARKANSAS CONFERENCE
SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION
SCHOLARSHIPS**



Scholarships

Scholarships to the 2011 School of Christian Mission are available by completing an Application and submitting it to Diana Hendricks, Conference Scholarship Chairperson. You can obtain a form by contacting Diana at:

dianah1954@hotmail.com or by calling her at 870-448-5991

In 2010, over 2 dozen children, youth and adults were able to attend the School of Christian Mission on Scholarship funds. **The deadline to apply is June 15th.** Diana will have some forms with her at Annual Conference in Hot Springs. Through your generosity to the ETW Fund and through the Conference UMW Mission Team, scholarships to the ACSOCM are made a wonderful blessing for so many!



Arkansas Conference UMW:

We have made it through our first quarter of 2011. We sent in a total of \$56,988.22 on our Pledge. We also remitted \$9,793.01 in Designated Gifts. Our Pledge to Women's Division is \$275,000.00 which is \$68,750.00 per quarter. I had one

District that reported late which would bring our total toward our Pledge to \$65,022.28.

As you can see, we came close but we were still short. We have a deficit of \$3,727.72 for the 1st Quarter.

I am trying to work on some information that could possibly help us understand the process of how our funds are received and distributed.

We are in the 2nd Quarter and approaching our 5 Star Woman deadlines. Last year, we purchased more than \$10,000.00 in Special Mission Recognition Pins. I hope that we will do that well this year. Let me know if you are having in problems with your SMR orders. I think things have gone smoothly with the orders.

I hope that you will join with me in keeping in mind what our goal is to Women's Division. I want to be able to tell you at the Annual Meeting that we have met our Pledge in 2011

Blessings,
Jo Webber

Conference Treasurer



Finding Peace



Find yourself a spot where you're relatively free from distractions, sit down, and breathe deeply for a little while. Let yourself sink into that place within you where peace is already a reality and not something you need to achieve.

When distracting thoughts arise, you should neither entertain them nor chase them away. Just let these clouds pass, and keep your focus on the blue sky within. Stay there just long enough to get a taste of that inner peace. Don't force anything; just be. If distractions are all that you find,

accept even that peacefully.

Let your imagination bring into this peaceful realm people you care about. Hold them there for a moment, one by one. Now bring in people who tend to irritate you or who you know are not at peace, and imagine them enveloped in this great serenity. If you do this for a few moments, you may be sure of having really influenced the world. We are all interconnected, and peace in one heart spreads peace to others.

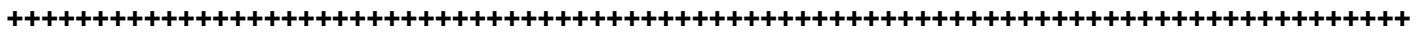
As you remember the people you brought into your realm of peace, is there someone who might need a little encouragement at this time? It takes only a moment to send an email, make a phone call, or write a note. How often have you been drawn out of depression or isolation by a gesture like this? After all, the very word, "peace," comes from a root that means, "to fasten, hold together, join closely." Peace is what holds us together.

God of shalom, give us this day our daily peace. May we act under your Holy Spirit to repent of our participation in things that run against your will. Turn us toward you and expand our understanding of who our neighbor is so that we may continue to experience peace, and work hard to build a peaceable kingdom with you. Let there be peace and let it begin with me. Amen!

Terry Gregory

Arkansas Conference

Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I hope all of you are planning on attending the United Methodist Women Luncheon at Annual Conference on June 6 in the DeSoto Room in the Austin Hotel in Hot Springs. This year we will focus on our Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission by hearing from Reverend Gail Baldwin, Associate Pastor of Russellville FUMC. She has recently been on a VIM trip to Haiti and will relate some of her experiences as they relate to our study on Haiti.



Don't forget our Annual Meeting in Pine Bluff on November 12. Our speaker will be Cheryl Trent from Women's Division. All Officers (Local, District and Conference) please get your reports in by your deadline so that we may include them in the Program Book.

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.

Opportunities for Mission Today Are Closer Than You Think!



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 27- 30 on the campus of Hendrix College. Many criteria for Mission Today can be met by attending ACSCM 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 ACSCM, criteria #11 has been met. Bringing items for children's disaster kits to ACSCM, 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 ACSCM 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 ACSCM 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! And this year a new schedule will be implemented to allow everyone to return home on Saturday, rather than miss going to your home church on Sunday. 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.

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

AR Conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation dianah1954@hotmail.com