



Wisconsin Conference



CATCH the VISION

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February 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by *Judy Vasby, President*

Dear Sisters in Christ—

As I write, I am preparing for my final deaconess retreat, which is being held at Brooks-Howell Home for Retired Deaconesses and Missionaries, in Asheville, NC. It is here that we will discover the leadership strengths God has given each of us and how best to use them in ministry.

We will also meet several deaconesses and hear their stories. Glory Dharmaraj will lead our closing worship on Thursday night. We each will have an interview with the Committee on Deaconess Service, who will give final approval for our commissioning. If we are accepted, commissioning will probably take place at

General Conference on April 29th, in Tampa, FL.

I will have a dual appointment:

1) Volunteer Mission Extension Worker for Wisconsin Annual Conference – to include Disaster Response activities; Hmong House of Good News board work, grant-writing and fund-raising; Northcott Neighborhood House board of directors and committee meetings; East Angola Partnership; and/or other duties requested by our Annual Conference Missions Coordinator.

2) Archivist for Willerup UMC in Cambridge – to organize and record its unique history as the Oldest Scandinavian Methodist Church in the World, originally an outreach project of the Board of Missions in New York.

The Deaconess (lay women)/ Home Missioner (lay men) program is administered and funded by United Methodist Women and was begun by its predecessor

women's groups in the late 1800s.

It has a long history of latency involved in ministries of love, justice, and service, and I am humbled to be part of it. So this is an example of where your mission money goes. Your Pledge money has made this ministry possible for me, and I am so grateful.

I will be happy to talk with each of you about my journey or speak at your unit, district, or church. May God bless your efforts to meet your Pledge to Missions in 2012 in support of all UMW projects that assist women, children, and youth in the U.S. and around the world.

Blessings—

Judy Vasby

Wisconsin Conference President

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MAKE THE BEST...BETTER!

by *Joan Moc, Treasurer*

I begin by wishing all of you a very Happy and Good New Year!

I look forward to a more prosperous year in our fund raising areas.

Do any of you remember the practice exercises in typing class? Remember typing, "IT IS TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN TO COME TO THE AID OF THEIR COUNTRY!"

You may be asking yourself, so what does that have to do with us? Well, I say, "NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD WOMEN TO COME TO THE AID OF THEIR CONFERENCE!"

Let's make 2012 a great year for Mission Giving, ladies!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Stacy Ganzer, Editor and Website Administrator

Email. The internet. Social Media. These are alive and well in the 21st Century. They are also great places to connect with our UMW sisters across the state of Wisconsin, in other states and around the world. Did you know that Harriet Olson, Deputy Secretary of Women's Division, is a regular participant on Facebook? I had the opportunity to chat with her during one of our Wisconsin Conference Executive meetings last year. What a wonderful opportunity that was to find out what was going on in New York, during a meeting at Pine Lake Camp, in Wisconsin.

I'm also friends with Anita Henderlight. Remember when Anita shared her experiences of Sudan during School of Christian Mission 2009-2010? Now that South Sudan is a country of its own, Africa ELI is facing new challenges and Anita is right there on the front lines. And she is more than willing to share her experiences and the experiences of others in her circle on Facebook.

Did you also know that Wisconsin Conference UMW has its own Facebook page? We provide regular updates on what's happening with UMW that gets posted directly to your Facebook wall when you "like" our page. You can also invite friends in your friends list to like our page. I have provided links to some of our favorite Facebook pages, including the United Methodist Women page, the GBGM page and the page for the United Methodist Church.

I also created a Facebook page for our local unit (Algonoma Blvd UMW) that shares information directly with our Wisconsin Conference UMW page, as well as the

page for our church. Believe it or not, it's fairly simple. Want to know more? Well, feel free to email, call or catch me at one of our events. I would be happy to share what I've learned with you.

Is your district ready to create a website of its own? We still have space available through the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women account on Weebly to add seven more districts. Nicolet District took us up on the offer last year. I'm hoping more districts will do the same in 2012. Using Weebly to create a nice, clean website is relatively easy. You just need to map out the pages and where you want each item to go, purchase an address, then start building your site. I have the username and login information. So if you are ready to create a site for your district, just let me know.

The last thing I want to mention is publicity for your local events and programs sponsored by your unit. Besides social media, email and your church's newsletter, you might consider sending information to your local newspaper. Many local papers are happy to publish upcoming events in their community or life section. Be sure to include the name of the event, the date and time, where it will take place, a brief description of what's happening and a contact person and phone number, other than your church's administrative assistant. He or she really doesn't need 50 phone calls about an event that your unit is hosting on top of the other responsibilities already on his/her plate. You will need to contact the newspaper to find out what the deadline is for submissions.

Well, now that you have a good jump on 2012, I hope you are all hopping aboard the "Internet Express" and checking out all the helpful information found on the United Methodist Women website (new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw) and our own Wisconsin Conference UMW site (www.wisconsinumw.org). I can't wait to meet and greet all of you this year. God bless and let's make 2012 a great year for women, children and youth in our local communities, across our nation and around the world.

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Catch the Vision

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Or email stacyganzer@new.rr.com and get a link sent to you **FREE!!!**

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH MISSION COORDINATOR: An Office With Perks!

by Karen Stimeling, *Spiritual Growth Coordinator*



Each time I develop a message, program or article I learn more and more about our God. What a privilege and humbling experience.

It is important for you to know this office is one of four coordinating positions on a Team.

With Social Action; Membership

Nurture and Outreach and Education and Interpretation, we Mission Coordinators create quite a dynamic group, developing programs at all levels of United Methodist Women. Psalm 145:3: God is magnificent; he can never be praised enough. Every bit of work we do is designed by God. 'We can't refuse to participate in God. When

we refuse, we're less; our essential humanity is less. Our lives are diminished.' (Paraphrased from *LEAP OVER A WALL*—Eugene Peterson) So, Sisters in Christ, say "yes" to His call with a joyful heart.

****Please note the 2012 Spiritual Growth study for School of Christian Mission has changed. It is IMMIGRATION IN THE BIBLE.*

Blessings to each of you as you make United Methodist Women part of your lives. Pray for our missions for women, youth and children that we may meet their needs.

Karen Stimeling,

*Wisconsin Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator
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TAKE THE LEAD

by Diane Quade, *Nominations Chairperson*



United Methodist Women are at a juncture with leadership in Wisconsin Conference. If someone from the nominating committees ask you to consider a position on either the district or conference team, please carefully pray about what you were

just asked to do. Then say yes with a full commitment to say yes. The organization needs you and maybe 2012 is the year to answer God's call and say yes.

If you have questions, please feel free to call me at 608-752-9397 or e-mail me at dianequade@gmail.com. United Methodist Women maybe reorganized after General Conference this year.

UMW is not going away we are just going to be in mission in NEW WAYS.

It is a wonderful time to do God's mission. Please consider joining us.

Diane Quade

Wisconsin Conference Nominations

608-752-9397

Email: dianequade@gmail.com

PINE LAKE (YoMiCa) CAMPERS SHARE.....

Hi Everybody! My name is Kaitlyn. I went to the camp Yo-Mi-Ca. That stands for Youth Mission Camp. The mission we talked about was what happened to Haiti. Something I learned was that you can see a lot of kids on the street because most of them do not have parents, because their parents could not take care of them or they just did not want them. I had a blast! Thank you for your time.

By Kaitlyn S.

Dear United Methodist Women,

Thank you so much for helping me to camp. I had so much fun. I went to YoMiCa (Youth Mission Camp) and learned how to help others.

I went swimming, played capture the flag, did arts and crafts, ate good food, made new friends, slept like a log, played basketball, went boating, saw a talent show and made friends with the special needs people, played Ships and Sailors and ate smores and sang songs and learned about Jesus. Thanks again for the fun 6 days at camp. I loved it!!

Sincerely, Isabelle C.

BEGIN THE YEAR WITH PROGRAM RESOURCES

by Gloria Carter, Secretary of Program Resources

As the New Year begins, I'm starting a new job—*Secretary for Program Resources*. I have a lot to learn to follow the great job Arlene Trull did for 4 years.

I do know that it's time to break out the new Prayer Calendar for 2012 with that wonderful cover photo of the mountains in Southeastern Kentucky and a wealth of Scripture, prayers, stories, photos and mission information inside. And if you haven't started a book for the Reading Program this year, now is the time.



Need the 2012 Reading Program book list? Go to the Wisconsin Conference UMW website (wisconsinumw.org) and use the link to the Reading Program page to download the brochure.

When you check out the Reading Program brochure, be sure to take a look at the last page. A new category, Leadership Development, was added last year. The Plans

now better incorporate the fifth category.

To complete Plan 1 you will now read five books—one from each of the five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

For Plans II-IV, you will read two books from each category, plus additional books for Plan III and IV. Also on that page you will find "Action Suggestions." We United Methodist Women are involved in mission through prayer, study and action. On these winter days, grab a cup of tea/coffee/cocoa, open a Reading Program book, and expand your concepts of mission!

Gloria Carter,
WI Conference Secretary of Program Resources
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carter53597@tds.net

YOUR MISSION TODAY

by Kay Putman, Education and Interpretation

My first order of business as your Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation has been to collect the district reports for Mission Today. What a learning experience this has been. Thank you all for your cooperation in getting those sent in.



Let's make a promise to ourselves to continue to use Mission Today ideas in our programming. It's not hard to do and even makes program planning easier for your unit.

If you need help, please contact your District E&I Coordinator or myself. We

will be happy to help—even do a program for you!

Don't be discouraged. You CAN be a Mission Today unit. Start 2012 with a program from the 2012 Program Book.

Then you'll already have one item checked off your list and be well on your way to becoming a Mission Today unit!

Kay Putman
Education and Interpretation
215 Water #205
Lodi, WI 53555

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Did you know there are scholarships available for Wisconsin women who wish to return to school and are members of United Methodist Women?



For information contact:

Yvonne Firary
715-355-6133

yafirary@yahoo.com

or visit www.wisconsinumw.org

SOME REASONS TO CARE!

by *Dodie Smith, Social Action Coordinator*

Our Wisconsin Conference UMW has accepted Human Trafficking as one of our Social Action Priorities for 2012. I have been trying to decide what I could say to excite you and entice you to come to our “**Mission Action Day**” on March 24th, at Tomah United Methodist Church.

Many of you have been reading about the issue and had programs in your local units or District meetings on the subject. Some have even been active in helping to spread the word. I would love to see you all on the 24th. I am including a few facts that will hopefully spark your interest enough to learn more.

If you are knowledgeable on the subject, we need you to share as we gather around lunch. The following are a few general facts that have startled me:

- Approximately 800,000 to 900,000 victims are annually trafficked across international



- borders worldwide; between 18,000 and 20,000 victims are trafficked into the United States annually. (One source had it as high as 12.3 million persons enslaved by trafficking)
- More than half of victims trafficked into the U.S. are children; victims are probably about equally women and men
- Within the U.S., both citizens and non-citizens fall prey to traffickers.
- Human Trafficking is in the top three largest criminal industries in the world.

Our guest speaker, Jane Tafel, from Eau Claire Lake Street UMC, will have an abundance of information to share with us on this topic.

She is the United States Director for Hagar International.

Register and join us for an enlightening day! The flyer is included in this “Catch the Vision” (pgs. 6-7).

If you have questions, contact me at 262-551-8669 or dodierwsmith@aol.com.

GREEN TEAM UPDATE: Leaving Smaller Footprints

by *Laura Pfeffer, Women's Division Green Team*

This year's program book is centered on the theme “Walk With Wholeness”. The ways most of us walk, however, reminds me of the title of a Fats Waller song —“Your Feet Too Big”.

Indeed the average carbon footprint of Americans is huge! Is that a way to walk with integrity as children of God? And yet, there is hope in our walk, as well.

Although our impact when we walk poorly in the world is enormous, by making even small choices to walk differently we can make a huge difference.

When we decide to walk more lightly on the earth, we also make room for others to be able to have what they need to walk alongside us. In valuing the handiwork of God in creation, we can walk with a greater sense of sacredness. In taking up the stewardship of creation as our calling, we find a greater purpose for our walk.

As we look forward in this new year, consider renewing your commitment to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and downsize your climate “shoe size”.



So, how do you get started reducing your footprint? Try setting a goal of tithing your footprint—that is decreasing your carbon footprint by 10% during the year. You might be amazed at how easy this is.

One really great program for you and members of your congregation to consider is the Cool Congregations program from Interfaith Power & Light (<http://wisconsinipl.org/>). This includes a carbon calculator spreadsheet, so you can keep track of how you are reducing your footprint in five key areas of consumption: car travel, flights, electricity, heating and trash. There is also a set of 25 steps under \$25 and a set of 25 steps over \$25, including the expected carbon reductions to help you decide what changes you want to target for the year. Complete with instructions on how to get small support groups together, Cool Congregations is a way to make big steps towards walking with wholeness.

Laura Pfeffer
Women's Division Green Team
ljspence@aol.com



**The North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting
June 19 - 20, 2012 (Tuesday and Wednesday)
Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa**

FILL MY CUP, LORD

“And to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:19

- Election of Women’s Division Directors by Bishops and Conference elected delegates.
- Worship with Bishop Deborah Kiesey of the Dakotas
- Bible Study led by Women’s Division Staff Marva Usher-Kerr
- Presentations by National Institutions
- Hands-on Mission Giving project
- Every four years delegates assemble at quadrennial meeting to elect Women’s Division directors AND to celebrate our PURPOSE!

As conference delegates and Bishops attend the election, there will be events and activities to encourage and inspire local, district, and conference United Methodist Women from the North Central Jurisdiction to “fill their cups” with ideas for mission.

Look for online registration in the coming weeks!

Plan NOW to join us as we refresh and refill the cups of
United Methodist Women!



Anita Henderlight and Africa ELI 2012 Wisconsin Tour



She's coming back! How many of you remember meeting Anita Henderlight at the Wisconsin School of Christian Mission several years ago? If you met Anita then or at an event in 2011, you'll remember the passion and energy she brought to telling the story about the country of Sudan and her mission to educate girls and women in the southern part of the country. You'll remember her sharing the story of Africa Education and Learning Initiative (Africa ELI) and its mission. Well, Anita is returning to Wisconsin to

give us an update on "our" girls, the birth of South Sudan and much more. Go to <http://africaeli.org> to learn more or find Anita and Africa ELI on Facebook or follow them on twitter

As of January 29, she will be in the Capital District; the Heartland District; and the Winnebago District. More locations are yet to be confirmed. There are a few dates still available which will be filled on a first come first served basis. Contact Sue Plasterer at 608-274-0275 or seplast@charter.net for more information.

Confirmed dates and places are:

April 11-Arrive: Madison

April 12-Thursday: Noon-Brodhead UMC; Evening -Madison-Bethany UMC

April 14-Saturday: Mid-morning- Oshkosh Algoma UMC

April 15-Sunday: All morning and early afternoon-Port Edwards UMC

April 18-Wednesday: 9:30-11 Whitewater UMC; Evening --Mauston UMC

April 19-Thursday: Afternoon – Minocqua UMC; Evening--Wausau First UMC (Pending)

April 21-Saturday: Depart Madison

For times check with specific churches or contact Sue Plasterer.



Below is a link to a blog site written by our Wisconsin church delegates to General Conference 2012 in April and Jurisdictional Conference in July. Last June, at Wisconsin's Annual conference in Wisconsin Dells, Judy Vasby, our Conference President, was elected first seat for the Jurisdictional meeting, which makes her first alternate/reserve for the General Conference, in Tampa. She will be in attendance there in order to be available to fill in for a Wisconsin lay delegate, if needed.

The General Conference delegates set church policy, which also affects United Methodist Women.

The Jurisdictional delegates elect new bishops. We're sure you have heard that our Bishop Lee is retiring so a new bishop will need to be elected to replace her. By reading this blog you will be able to keep up with what the delegates are doing to prepare for these important conferences and what issues are coming before the world-wide body.

If you sign in at the blog site, you will automatically be notified when new messages are added. The link is: wignc2012.wordpress.com.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S MISSION GIVING SUPPORTED NATIONAL MISSION INSTITUTIONS

These institutions include nearly 100 institutions located across the United States - missionary centers, schools, colleges, health care facilities and women's centers. They offer a variety of services.

For additional information on such institutions, including lists of services provided, contact information and more, visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Programs.

1. United Methodist University Center	21. United Methodist Center	41. Quaker Village, Inc.	61. Methodist Center of America
2. United Methodist Center, Inc.	22. Lutheran Day	42. United Methodist Center, Inc.	62. United Methodist Center, Inc.
3. United Methodist Center, Inc.	23. Methodist Hospital	43. Methodist Center, Inc.	63. United Methodist Center
4. United Methodist Center, Inc.	24. United Methodist Center	44. United Methodist Center, Inc.	64. United Methodist Center, Inc.
5. United Methodist Center, Inc.	25. United Methodist Center	45. United Methodist Center, Inc.	65. United Methodist Center, Inc.
6. United Methodist Center, Inc.	26. United Methodist Center	46. United Methodist Center, Inc.	66. United Methodist Center, Inc.
7. United Methodist Center, Inc.	27. United Methodist Center	47. United Methodist Center, Inc.	67. United Methodist Center, Inc.
8. United Methodist Center, Inc.	28. United Methodist Center	48. United Methodist Center, Inc.	68. United Methodist Center, Inc.
9. United Methodist Center, Inc.	29. United Methodist Center	49. United Methodist Center, Inc.	69. United Methodist Center, Inc.
10. United Methodist Center, Inc.	30. United Methodist Center	50. United Methodist Center, Inc.	70. United Methodist Center, Inc.
11. United Methodist Center, Inc.	31. United Methodist Center	51. United Methodist Center, Inc.	71. United Methodist Center, Inc.
12. United Methodist Center, Inc.	32. United Methodist Center	52. United Methodist Center, Inc.	72. United Methodist Center, Inc.
13. United Methodist Center, Inc.	33. United Methodist Center	53. United Methodist Center, Inc.	73. United Methodist Center, Inc.
14. United Methodist Center, Inc.	34. United Methodist Center	54. United Methodist Center, Inc.	74. United Methodist Center, Inc.
15. United Methodist Center, Inc.	35. United Methodist Center	55. United Methodist Center, Inc.	75. United Methodist Center, Inc.
16. United Methodist Center, Inc.	36. United Methodist Center	56. United Methodist Center, Inc.	76. United Methodist Center, Inc.
17. United Methodist Center, Inc.	37. United Methodist Center	57. United Methodist Center, Inc.	77. United Methodist Center, Inc.
18. United Methodist Center, Inc.	38. United Methodist Center	58. United Methodist Center, Inc.	78. United Methodist Center, Inc.
19. United Methodist Center, Inc.	39. United Methodist Center	59. United Methodist Center, Inc.	79. United Methodist Center, Inc.
20. United Methodist Center, Inc.	40. United Methodist Center	60. United Methodist Center, Inc.	80. United Methodist Center, Inc.

To help fund these projects and more, visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Give

WHO NEEDS TO READ CATCH THE VISION?

Catch the Vision is the official newsletter of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women. Published four times a year, it includes important information on upcoming events, reports from our officers and other valuable information.

So, who needs to read *Catch the Vision*? Because this newsletter is only mailed or email notifications sent to two officers in each of the local units, the officers on the district level and conference officers, we all need to spread the word. Anyone with computer access should be able to go to our website (www.wisconsinumw.org) to find the latest newsletter. It is posted under the "Communications" tab.

There is also a lot of valuable information on our website, including links to other sites and online registration pages for upcoming events.

To receive a paper copy of *Catch the Vision* or to receive FREE email notification when the newsletter is posted, see the box at the bottom left corner of page 2.



2012 DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, March 10	SOCM Committee Meeting, Wausau First UMC
Saturday, March 24	Mission Action Day - Human Trafficking Tomah UMC, Tomah, Wisconsin
Friday- Saturday April 20-21	Conference Exec. Meeting @ Sun Prairie
Tuesday - Wednesday June 19-20	North Central Jurisdiction Event Drake University, Des Moines, IA
Thursday - Sunday June 21-23	Midwest Regional School of Christian Mission Drake University, Des Moines, IA
Tuesday - Friday July 31-Aug. 3	Wisconsin School of Christian Mission Westwood Conference Center, Wausau, WI
Saturday, August 4	SOCM Drive-in Day (9:00 - 3:15)
Friday - Sunday August 24-26	Conference Mega Meeting @ Pine Lake
Friday - Saturday October 19-20	Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering @ Sun Prairie United Methodist Church

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.