



Wisconsin Conference



CATCH the VISION

Volume VI Number 3

www.wisconsinumw.org

JULY 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by *Judy Vasby, President*

CONGRATULATIONS!

Gwen Gibson, vice president of Winnebago District, and her husband William were commissioned at General Conference to be missionaries. They will serve in Senegal beginning in August.

Per our by-laws, Wisconsin Conference UMW gave them each \$100 to be used as desired while they establish their ministry. Please support them with your prayers.

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NEW Charter for Racial Justice Program!

“Thoughts, Words, and Deeds”—our 2012 program, written by conference officers just for Wisconsin, is available for use in your local organizations.

The entire program is laid out for your easy use, offering speaking parts, litany, hymns, a brief message, and discussion questions. There also is the option to watch a video, made in Janesville, or do a skit about colored hands.

The program is based on statement #5 from the Charter for Racial Justice...BECAUSE WE BELIEVE we must declare before God and before each other that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers in thought, word, and deed...WE WILL increase

local church awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment, and medical care for all members of the community, and create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines. Using this as one of your programs will give you credit for #7 on the Mission Today activities list.

A copy of the program will be distributed to everyone who attends School Of Christian Mission. Or you can find it on our Wisconsin UMW website (above).

Blessings—

Judy Vasby

Wisconsin Conference President

Email: vasby.umw@gmail.com

Phone: 608-576-0173



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Friday-Saturday, November 9-10, 2012

All Conference UMW Training Event

Wisconsin Rapids

FROM THE EDITOR

by Stacy Ganzer, Editor and Website Administrator

It is certainly a time for change. We are changing the location of Wisconsin School of Christian Mission this year to the Westwood Conference Center, in Wausau. The change wasn't really expected, but it was necessary when the Ramada in Stevens Point closed its doors. I certainly hope you plan to join us the week of July 31-August 3 or at least on Overview Day (changed from Drive-in Day) on Saturday, August 4th. Studies for this year include Immigration in the Bible, Poverty and Haiti. There is also a great plenary room with a huge wall screen for audio-visual purposes and a wonderful sound system, as well.

As we do every two years, we also had to change the venue for Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering of United Methodist Women. This year we are holding Annual Gathering at Sun Prairie United Methodist Church. We are also using the workshop format that we used two years ago. This year's Annual Gathering promises to be quite interesting and entertaining as we "Sing God's SongS" for mission.

On another note concerning change, the initiative to allow United Methodist Women to be its own entity within the United Methodist Church was passed at General Conference just a couple months ago. What does that mean? Well, it means some structural changes are coming over the next few years.

That leads us to one of Wisconsin Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 9-10, 2012. That's right! We are offering an actual day of training open to all Wisconsin United Methodist Women members.

District officers are required to attend and participate in this event that is being led by Julia Tulloch of Women's Division. (See page 7) This event will include information on the possible changes coming to United Methodist Women over the months and years ahead. It promises to be chock full of valuable information and ideas about specific positions within the organization, as well as the organizational structure as a whole.

Where is United Methodist Women headed? Why did we decide to move out from under the General Board of Global Ministries? How do I do my job as treasurer of my local unit? What are all these forms really for and what do they mean to the organization as a whole? Why do we give mission money to other countries and not just to our own communities? Why don't young women want to join UMW?

These questions and more will be addressed at this All Conference UMW Training Event on Friday evening, November 9, and Saturday, November 10,



Catch the Vision

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Stacy Ganzer, Editor
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Wisconsin Conference



2012. You won't want to miss a single moment.

I encourage you to make plans to be at School of Christian Mission, Wausau, July 31-Aug. 3 or Aug. 4; Sun Prairie for Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering of United Methodist Women, Friday-Saturday, October 20-21, 2012; and the All Conference UMW Training Event in Wisconsin Rapids, Friday-Saturday, November 9-10, 2012. Mark your calendars!!!

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH MISSION COORDINATOR WOMEN AT THE RIVER

by Karen Stimeling, *Spiritual Growth Coordinator*



No, the three women were not washing their clothes at the river. They were in the hotel laundry room while their husbands attended General Conference. Getting to know each other in this modern setting, the ‘where do you live’, ‘are you clergy or laity’, and other introductory questions were briefly answered while the machines whirred in the background. One of the women thought about Biblical times, when this activity was an opportunity for women to share life stories. Would the hotel strangers take time to share some personal glimpses into their lives as they clustered in the small, warm room?

Alas, maybe the machines worked *too* well. Or maybe the time was too short. One woman’s work was completed all too quickly, leaving just two. Polite conversation centered around Conference observations. But all too soon it was obvious the two women had differing perceptions of people, scientific documentation, and Jesus’ teaching to love one another. Even if there had been a month’s worth of laundry and quarters had been plentiful, the two women’s beliefs would probably never coincide. Actually, one woman could not wait to fluff and fold her clothes in order to politely end the conversation and leave the room.

Yes, I was the lone person left to ruminate on what had transpired in just an hour’s time. Did the women at the river discuss justice issues? Have issues become “idols”, taking us away from the mission of serving others and making disciples for Jesus Christ? Am I missing something? Is it difficult to understand Jesus’ directive to love one another? Why don’t we let God do the judging? It was a good thing the dryer stopped and I could close the wonderful dialogue with myself. Who would think a time at the river (laundry) could be filled with so many God-thoughts?

Now, while reading *Immigration In The Bible*, the Spiritual Growth Mission study book, I specifically appreciated being reminded of the following: “As followers of Christ it is important that we realize that Christ is in us and the Holy Spirit is with us. Therefore in everything we do, we are forcing Christ to do with us.” Well, God, was my response to the stranger a “godly view and standard of conduct”? Since my response to the stranger was also my response to God, I hope so.

See you at School of Christian Mission for more God-thoughts!!! Thank you, God, for being with us.

Karen Stimeling,
Wisconsin Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator
715.595.6464
Email: stimeark@centurytel.net

Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering of United Methodist Women Sun Prairie United Methodist Church Friday-Saturday, October 20-21, 2012 “Faith, Hope, Love in Action: Singing God’s SongS”

There will be special music Friday night in keeping with our theme of “Singing God’s SongS.”

On Saturday, God’s song will continue through our work as United Methodist Women when we conduct the necessary annual business, praise God through worship and experience several mission workshops. We also hope to include workshops in both the Spanish and Hmong languages. Workshops will include:

- Bullying
- Human Trafficking
- Poverty
- UMW Moves Forward into a New Age
- Road to Becoming a Deaconess

Hmong egg rolls are available for pre-purchase. Pre-order and pick them up at Annual Gathering in Sun Prairie. All proceeds go to the Hmong House of Good News, in Milwaukee.

25 scholarships are available on a first come, first serve basis. The scholarship covers registration for the event (your motel reservation is on your own). Registration forms and other specifics will be available at School of Christian Mission, in Wausau, and in the next issue of *Catch the Vision*.

Blocks of motel rooms will be held at Super 8 and Quality Inn.

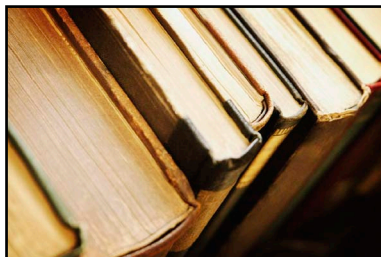
Mark the dates—Oct. 20-21—and BE THERE!

SUMMERTIME READING

by Gloria Carter, Secretary of Program Resources

Ah, summer! I love summer. Two of my favorite parts of summer are School of Christian Mission and summertime reading. Summer is the perfect time to catch up on the Reading Program. But with so many choices (2008-2012 reading lists), what to read?

Of course, all the books in the Reading Program have been carefully selected and are worth a read, but lately I've been paying attention to what others are reading. Here are some recommendations. Which ones have you already read?



Heard at the conference team meeting in April—two recommendations:

Same Kind of Different as Me, by Ron Hall and Denver Moore (2011 Nurturing for Community). If you haven't read it yet, it's a great story, not just of a "modern day slave," but also of homelessness, friendship and faith that sees us through tragedy.

The Perfect Board, by Calvin K. Clemons (2011 Leadership Dev.). Anyone serving on a board or committee should read it.

Two book reviews in district newsletter Capital Comments:

From Merrill Woolnough who reviewed *All Creation Sings*, by J. Ellsworth Kalas (2012 Spiritual Growth): "Kalas drew me in when he moved beyond extolling the virtues of gardens and forested hillsides to Jesus, the cross and daily living in the real world where "thorny" describes personal relationships rather than a bramble in the Conservancy." A good book for a daily devotional or discussion groups.

From Marilyn Eyster who reviewed *Women Lead the Way*, by Linda Tarr-Whelan (2012 Leadership Dev.): "As long as women are under-represented in positions

of power, everyone misses out on the important insights and new perspectives that women can bring to the table."

The Reading Program encourages us to think critically about current issues. Some of the selections may disturb us or make us uncomfortable as we read about distressing situations, yet they broaden our understanding of mission. We shouldn't shy away from them. Readers in the online community recommend these books (read book descriptions in Reading Program brochure):

Half the Sky, by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (2011 Leadership Dev.).

Forgotten Girls, by Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett (2012 Ed. For Mission).

I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced by Nujood Ali (2012 Nurturing for Comm.)

The Death of Josseline, by Margaret Regan (2012 Social Action).

Because He Lives: Faith, Hope and Love in Action, by Catherine Ritch Guess (2012 Ed. For Mission)—recommended as "one of the best books I've read in a long time" and "one of the best books on the list."

As I write this today, I'm packing to leave on family vacation. The 2012 Reading Program books going in my suitcase? *The New Jim Crow* (yes, kind of heavy vacation reading, but an important topic), *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, and *Ostriches, Dung Beetles and Other Spiritual Masters*.

Happy summertime reading, everyone!

Gloria Carter,
WI Conference Secretary of Program Resources
608-849-7589
carter53597@tds.net

SAVE THE DATE!!!

FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20-21, 2012

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING

OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Sun Prairie United Methodist Church, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

"Singing God's SongS"

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

by Donna Fae Kruse, MNO

Of the 309 United Methodist Women units within the Wisconsin Conference last year, 211 local units reported their membership to their district Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach.

As of January 1, 2011, Wisconsin Conference UMW reported 6,241 members, with an additional 208 new members joining throughout the year. Due to deaths and other reasons, 351 United Methodist Women members were removed from the membership roll, lowering the total membership for Wisconsin to 6,098 as of December 31, 2011.

I would like to recognize Chippewa and Metro North districts for having 100% of their units turn in their membership reports. A job well done, ladies!!! Winnebago, Nicolet and Heartland districts were very close.

Local units need to use the greatly simplified reporting form for membership count. If the unit doesn't have a Membership Nurture and Outreach officer, then the report can be filled out and sent in by the Treasurer, Secretary or President. Local unit and District Membership Forms will be explained at the Officer Training Event this fall at Wisconsin Rapids, November 9-10, 2012. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars! District officers are required to attend and I greatly encourage all local unit officers to attend, as well. A representative from Women's Division will be on-hand to answer any questions you might have about anything and everything related to United Methodist Women, including, but not limited to, restructuring of UMW, membership concerns, reporting, resources, etc. So, come with lots of questions and concerns. Also be sure to bring your ideas to share; your involvement with teens and young women; ideas for flexible scheduling of meetings and events; ideas for using resources; and your ideas for how to share leadership responsibilities.

And don't forget to share with other United Methodist Church women in your congregations what it means to be a member of United Methodist Women, where the mission money goes; what educational opportunities for spiritual growth are available; the missions we support; and how we put faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth in our communities, across our nation and around the world.

Donna Fae Kruse
Membership Nurture and Outreach
608-727-2313

VISION

by Kay Putman, Educations and Interpretation

Vision and visions! My vision has been to have all eight district counterparts show up at a Wisconsin Conference UMW executive meeting. Impossible, you say? Well, it happened. Not quite the way I had envisioned it, because not all of our districts have an elected Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation. But those who hold the office were there and ready to participate. What a wonderful blessing that was. Thank you all!

Vision as insight has also been on my mind a lot, lately. Have you ever struggled to see, to read, sing, sew, write, drive, etc.? When we can see, do we really SEE? Spring leaves on the trees, flowers blooming, butterflies and birds flitting about, honey bees dancing from bloom to bloom—God created all this natural beauty for our enjoyment. Do we see the people around us and the true value that each person brings? Or do we simply see the color of their skin, the disability they may have or the poverty they live in? Each of us is a blessing from God.

Please keep "vision" in mind as you ready yourself for this year's Wisconsin School of Christian Mission. Old and new friends, new understandings and educational opportunities, spiritual growth through worship, sharing and fellowship, appreciation for our new venue and the new adventure that comes with a new location, and an appreciation for those who make it all happen.

My vision for each of you is that you will allow your eyes to be opened to new beginnings, as we move forward into a new future with United Methodist Women. The possibilities are endless for educational opportunities and a greater appreciation for the missions of the church.

Remember: "Open my eyes, Lord. I want to see Jesus."

Kay Putman
Education and Interpretation



GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012

by Judy Vasby

The sights:

- Exquisite altar arrangements changed daily to match the themes-
- Colorful clothing and head dresses on delegates from around the world-
- Scarves waving rhythmically to enhance music from Africa-
- A thousand delegates seated at tables inside the voting bar-
- Another thousand alternates and spectators seated in bleachers surrounding them-
- Interpreters' booths along the edge-
- White, green, and orange cards waving to catch the eye of the presiding Bishop-
- Delegates standing at microphones to speak about legislation-
- The College of Bishops sitting on the stage overseeing the proceedings-
- People hugging each other in joyful greeting or in disappointment and pain-
- Blue skies over Tampa.

Make Disciples
of Jesus Christ
to Transform
the World

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012 • TAMPA, FL



The sounds:

- The Praise Band leading the worship in a variety of music styles-
- Drums, organ, violin, accordian, trumpet, trombone, guitars, ethnic instruments-
- Adult choirs from the US and around the world offering anthems-
- The Lake Junaluska Singers-
- “Yes, you with the orange card on the far right, come to microphone 8 for a speech against”-
- English, Spanish, German, French, Portuguese, Russian, Korean, Tagalog, Swahili-
- The murmur of interpreters-
- Insistent, pleading voices asking the Church to allow gay/lesbian couples to marry and be fully included in all aspects of church life as beloved children of God-
- Equally insistent voices proclaiming that request not to be consistent with Christian life according to Scripture-
- Powerful preaching, gusts of laughter, reading in unison, snuffled tears, clapping hands.

Major decisions:

- **UMW will separate from the Board of Global Ministries for finance and administration, but will continue to support missionaries and initiatives that care for women, children, and youth-**
- **There shall be an organization of United Methodist Women in every church, but other women's ministries may be present as well-**
- Clergy will no longer have guaranteed appointments-
- There will be no set-aside Bishop to oversee the needs of all the bishops-
- The United Methodist Church will retain the current language in the Discipline that says the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching-
- There will be no change in governing structure – but Boards and Agencies will reduce their membership numbers to accommodate a reduced budget.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UMW TRAINING EVENT

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2012

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN

Reflecting on her trip to Wisconsin in November, Julia Tulloch commented,

“United Methodist Women members and leaders are at the heart of our work. Investing in our leaders through training and education keeps us strong in God’s mission with women, children and youth. Knowing who we are and our capacities helps us to be who we are in mission. And over the years United Methodist Women have found that these learning experiences are beneficial to our roles in the workplace, community, and family, as well as in the church and the UMW. The Wisconsin Conference UMW leadership is to be credited for hosting an event that reaches out to UMW leaders in the districts. This effort, in turn, will strengthen local members and leaders in carrying out our Purpose.”

Julia (Julie) Tulloch

Julie Tulloch has been a member of the staff of the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries since 1991. She has worked in training and leadership development with conferences in the United States and on several occasions with women in Asia. She has served as a study group leader in conference and Regional Schools of Christian Mission and as a staff consultant for Regional School planning teams. As Executive Secretary for Leadership Development, she develops and implements training and development strategies for conference and district leaders in a variety of settings.

Prior to her employment with the Women’s Division, she served in the Western Pennsylvania Conference in local, district and conference offices of United Methodist Women. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of two national mission agencies, a member of the General Board of Church and Society and a delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conferences, and an elected local school board member. She was previously employed as caseworker with adolescents in institutional settings. She is a graduate of Allegheny College with a major in religious studies and has a master’s degree in adult and continuing education and training management from the University of St. Francis. She has two adult daughters, a son-in-law and one grandson. She lives with her husband in New York City.



**ALL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEMBERS ARE INVITED
TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL TRAINING EVENT.**

DISTRICT OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE.

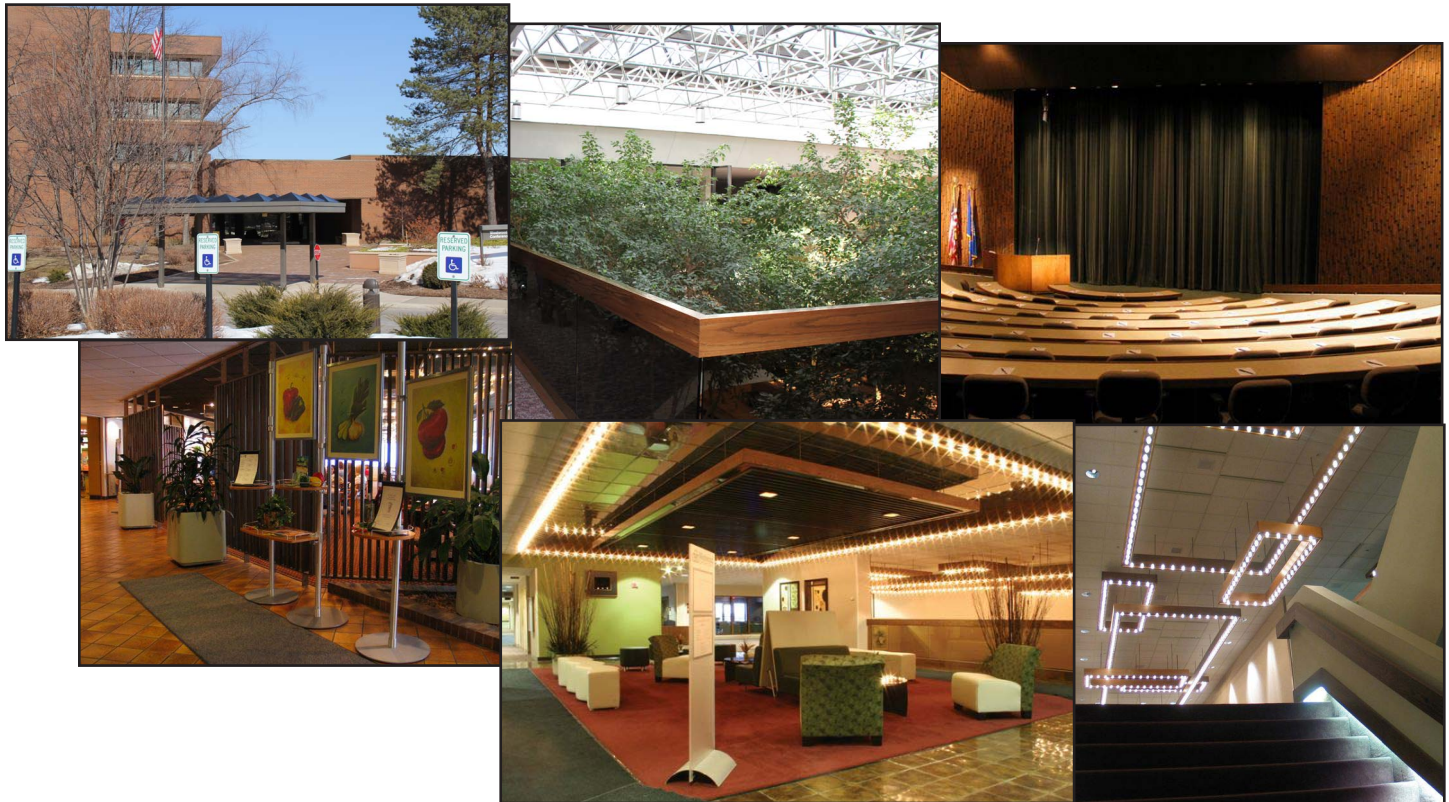
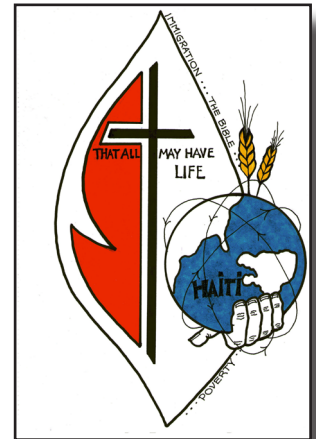
**MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE IN
THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF *CATCH THE VISION*.**

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR SCHOOL

Did you remember to make your hotel reservation for School of Christian Mission? We have a block of rooms at the Fairfield Inn and Suites. That is also where the busses will pick up and drop off during the course of the day. If you stay in one of the other hotels or motels nearby you will have to provide your own transportation. A map of the facilities we will be using is at the bottom of this page.

This year's School location is a beautiful conference center at the top of a hill in Wausau. The outdoor patio has a nice view of Wausau and the surrounding area. Breakout rooms are easily accessed and the plenary room is in a college lecture hall format, with a huge projection screen for our use.

Wisconsin School of Christian Mission is going to be fantastic this year. You certainly don't want to miss a single moment of it. Don't forget to purchase your study books and read them ahead of time, so you don't have to be reading and studying all the time during School. Also, remember to bring non-perishable food items and/or new personal hygiene products, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, feminine hygiene products, etc. for the Neighbors Place, in Wausau. Please do not bring used items or items that are not in their original packaging.



WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION TUESDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 31-AUG. 3, 2012 OVERVIEW DAY - SATURDAY, AUG. 4, 2012



Anita Henderlight and Africa ELI 2012 Wisconsin Tour



She came for 10 days and shared the birth of South Sudan. She inspired us with the stories of “our” girls and boys, Kenneth Wani, Director of Schools, Africa ELI and Betty Roba “bridging the gap”. Marvelous women of the Capital, Winnebago, Heartland Districts as well as Wisconsin Conference UMW planned her tour and took her to 21 different venues traveling well over 1,200 miles. She even preached in Port Edwards.

Whew!!! We knew Anita was passionate. Now we know what fuels

her passion--our wonderful girls and boys in South Sudan as well as medium cokes from McDonalds and coffee from Starbucks. She takes power naps, sends and receives text messages, posts blogs and pictures to Facebook to spread the word about Africa ELI and stay in contact with staff, students and supporters throughout the US and the world.

Those of us in Wisconsin who wish to contribute to Africa ELI can now do so through our church as well as donating directly and online. Africa ELI has a Wisconsin Conference fund number we can use. It is Africa ELI-7951. You can write checks to the Wisconsin Conference, put them in your church’s offering plate and your church can handle things from there. The Wisconsin Conference will send the funds to Africa ELI.

A 2013 Wisconsin Tour is being planned as well. Anita will return on Saturday, April 27, and leave on Monday, May 6. One event is already scheduled for May 5, 2013, at the Milton UMC! To schedule a presentation, please contact Sue Plasterer at 608-274-0275 or seplast@charter.net or Marilyn Eyster at 608-868-3585 or marilyn_eyster@msn.com.

Go to <http://africaeli.org> to learn more or find Anita and Africa ELI on Facebook or follow them on Twitter.

GREEN TEAM UPDATE: SEASONS OF EARTH

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

I hope you read Rev. Pat Watkins's article in the June issue of *response* magazine, entitled "From the Dust of the Earth".

It is a wonderful witness to a connection with his experience of mission in Nigeria to our Biblical statement of being created from the earth and enlivened by the breath of God.

The connections we form with our earth and our stewardship of God's gifts of creation are fundamental to our understanding of how God works within us and our world. The good news is that you don't have to be a missionary to hear God speak through the natural world and its bounty.

God's presence and blessing is at work even here in Wisconsin. I invite you to open your eyes to what God has for you each and every day in the sky, in the ground and all around you. See the tiny insects, the soaring birds, the fresh fruits of the earth and know that God provides blessings for all to sustain and to share.



Want a summer project to allow you to keep summer's blessings all year? Consider asking your county extension agent to give you the name of a master canner and brush up on new ways of preserving fresh foods through canning, freezing and drying. There has been lots of modern scientific work to make this safe, affordable and most especially delicious! Some of these techniques take little time and effort, but will reward you all year long.

How about organizing a trip for your unit to an apple orchard this fall to collect fresh apples or apple juice or perhaps a berry field for a sweet treat?

Or make a trip to your local farmer's market to see how we all can grow our connection to the earth and our community of neighbors.

Taste and know that God is good.

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

TREASURER'S NEWS—It's About Team Work

by *Judy Vasby, Acting Wisconsin Conference UMW Treasurer*

As you know, Wisconsin Conference Treasurer Joan Moc, died from complications after back surgery. Her memorial service was April 9—Easter Monday. We miss her greatly.

It falls upon the President to take over the Treasurer's duties, when she is not able. Using what I learned from a few short courses in accounting that I took years ago, I have made an effort to keep things going until a new treasurer can be elected and trained. With a lot of help from my "friends"—district treasurers and the Conference Team – I can assure you that all monies are duly recorded and that Pledge Money, World Thank Offerings and Call To Prayer donations, Special Mission Recognitions, Mission Giving Plus donations, etc. have been sent to Women's Division and/or the designated mission projects.

With wisdom, the Conference Team decided that it would be a good practice to have two officers, not just

one, as back-up signers of checks, with access to our UMW accounts. It is required that the President do this for the Treasurer, but who backs up the President?

Given that I travel so much on UMW and church business and that I may get called to do disaster response, it was decided that Diane Quade, Nominations Chair, and Linda Whitelock, President of Capital District, be assigned to do our banking, if needed. In fact, Linda, who is an accountant in "real" life, took over the books while I was at General Conference and put everything into an Excel computer program. She will continue to do that service, while I handle the rest. I am so grateful!

I also appreciate the patience all have shown as I struggle to get into the "swing" of these new duties. I regret that some Special Mission Recognition Pins did not arrive in time for their expected presentations.

The GOOD NEWS—As of April 30th, we

continued page 11

WAYS TO REDUCE PRISON POPULATIONS

by *Dodie Smith, Social Action*

Greetings!

As we prepare for a long-anticipated summer of activities, I have chosen a topic that seems to be on the minds of many—our prison system. The information that follows is from an article sent by Women's Division from the *Washington FCNL Newsletter*—Sept./Oct. 2011, "Alternatives to Prison."

Because the article is 7 pages long, I have bulleted some main points:

- The response to major social problems in the U.S. is to use **more force**. Increase the punishments, lock people up, throw away the key. In particular, this avenue has **not** been effective in the War on Drugs. However, there are effective programs all over the country that have succeeded in turning lives around, depriving drug dealers of a market and reducing drug associated crimes.
- Numerous successful programs and techniques can help prevent crime, help communities deal justly with offenders, address mental health and drug addictions outside of the criminal system and help reintegrate former prisoners in the community and the economy.
- The US incarcerates a higher share of its population than any nation in the world. While the US comprises 5% of the world's population,



we hold almost 25% of the world's reported prisoners. Since 1970, our prison population has quintupled, while our population has only grown about 40%. Although crime rates have fallen in recent years, longer sentences and mandatory sentences by state and federal laws has contributed to increases.

- Keeping a person in a federal or state prison costs about \$29,000 a year. That's about \$74 billion a year nationally. There are additional costs to communities caring for families of those in prison.

The **11X15 Campaign for Justice** for safer, healthier communities has been initiated by WISDOM (<http://prayforjusticeinwi.org>). The program challenges Wisconsin to reduce the prison population from its current size (about 22,000) to 11,000 by the end of the year

2015.

They have created a presentation which is available from its affiliate organizations or on its Web site.

You may contact me with questions or for an organization near you.

Treatment and alternative programs will help non-violent offenders become productive members of their communities and reduce our prison populations.

Dodie Smith,
Mission Coordinator for Social Action
dodierwsmith@aol.com

It's About Team Work *(cont'd from page 10)*

have received from districts \$77,863.16 toward our Pledge to Missions of \$340,000 for 2012. Of that \$37,500.60 has been sent to Women's Division and counts toward our pledge. We also received \$8,910.88 in Mission Giving Plus donations. The rest has been held to pay for meeting expenses, Regional School of Christian Mission fees, and programming for districts.

I suppose we should say that since we are half-way through the year, we should have received 50% of the money requested in our budget. But, traditionally, there is a slump from May to August, when units are less active, and a big push at the end of the year.

As Paul said of the extremely poor Macedonian

churches, "they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability...they pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints." (2 Corinthians 8: 1-4) They set the mark for giving. So I **THANK YOU** for your generosity thus far and ask you to make an effort to raise funds through the summer and pass them on as quickly as possible.

In Christ-
Judy Vasby
Acting Treasurer
608-576-0173
vasby.umw@gmail.com

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
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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.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

2012 DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday - Friday
July 31-Aug. 3

Wisconsin School of Christian Mission
Westwood Conference Center, Wausau, WI

Saturday, August 4

SOCM Overview (formerly Drive-In) Day
(9:00 am - 3:15 pm)

Friday - Sunday
August 24-26

Conference Mega Meeting @ Pine Lake

Friday - Saturday
October 19-20

Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering
@ Sun Prairie United Methodist Church

Friday - Saturday
November 9-10

All Conference UMW Training Event @
Wisconsin Rapids UMC (all district officers
required to attend, local unit officers and
other UMW members encouraged to attend)

Julia R. Tulloch from Women's Division will be leading this special
training event and sharing her insights on the future of United
Methodist Women.