

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Stacy Ganzer, Editor and Website Administrator

Don't let the title of this piece scare you or turn you off to reading this article. I'm still me and I just thought a little entertainment was in order.

Do you ever read those letters from the editors you see in magazines and periodicals? Or do you just skip over them and head straight to the "good stuff"? What do the editorials really mean, anyway? Well, here's my take.

The editor usually has some explanation or information to impart on a topic related to the content of the latest issue of said magazine or periodical. In this case, I'm just going to say that I hope you all had a wonderful time serving women, children and youth in the many mission opportunities available through United Methodist Women this year. I know I did.

I had my first opportunity to attend Regional School of Christian Mission at Drake University, in Des Moines, Iowa, back in June. What is that, you might ask? Well, it's when we officers from the various conferences in our jurisdiction get together and learn about the different mission studies to be offered at our own Schools of Christian Mission. I also had the opportunity to meet my counterparts in other conferences, as well as the staff members on Women's Division who create the literature (including *response* magazine) for United Methodist Women.

On top of that, I had the chance to take a boatload of pictures at Wisconsin School of Christian Mission and Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering of United Methodist Women. If you look closely at this newsletter, you will probably see a few of these pictures scattered here and

there.

For me, the year 2011 has been a year of adjustment, growth, education and soul-searching in both my personal life and in my role as Communications Coordinator for Wisconsin Conference UMW. After accepting this position, I made some pretty big changes to the way we communicate with all of you. I added a new website separate from the church's site and tried to make the new site as user-friendly as possible. I also created a Facebook page in keeping with the times.

Did you know that you can type in Wisconsin Conference UMW in the search box at the top of your Facebook page and then "like" our page? I update it regularly and we now have more than 45 people following us and receiving updates right on their wall.

Another big change that was started by my predecessor, Julie Prouty, is that many of you now receive a link to our newsletter on our website and have stopped receiving the paper copy through the U.S. mail. This is our way of Going Green and reducing the amount of Mission Giving money we use for bulk mailing the paper copies. I still get a few of those non-deliverable paper copies sent back to me and have to pay for them when someone's address changes. At the moment, email doesn't charge us anything for non-deliverables, which I am very thankful for.

Finally, I just want to let you all know how wonderful it

has been to meet with and talk to you about the wonderful things our members are doing for women, children and youth here in Wisconsin, across our nation and around the world. I am honored to be part of such a forward-thinking and committed organization of mission-minded women. You are all truly special! Thank you for all you do and thank you for sharing your enthusiasm with other women in your churches. I look forward to seeing you in 2012 at School of Christian Mission and Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering. Take care, work hard and God bless!

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Catch the Vision

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Wisconsin Conference



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DON'T LOSE A MINUTE

by *Karen Stimeling, Spiritual Growth Coordinator*

It seems life's minutes go by more quickly than when I was a child. My folks told me this would happen. At this time of year the "minutes" seem even more precious because winter is fast approaching... lots to do before the cold weather arrives, lots of 2011 church and UMW events coming to fruition... only to commence serious planning for 2012, and the list goes on and on. Oh, these "minutes" are so precious.

In the midst of all the chaos of life, I need to center myself. I need to remember who has given the "minutes" to me... God. It is Peter's writing in 2 Peter 1: 3-11 (Peterson's translation) that helps me. Peter lists several of faith's actions: learning to know God better, developing perseverance, doing God's will and loving others that motivates me not to "put off what needs to be done for God".

I pray as you read the following scripture you will allow God to empower and enable you to live all your "minutes" for Him. Please pray for me to do the same.

(emphasis added) 2 Peter 1:3-11... "Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! We were also given absolutely terrific promises to pass on to you... your tickets to participation in the life of God after you turned your back on a world corrupted by lust.

So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. Without these qualities you can't see what's right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books.

So, friends, confirm God's invitation to you, his choice of you. Don't put it off; do it now. Do this, and you'll have your life on a firm footing, the streets paved and the way wide open into the eternal kingdom of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In my NIV Life Application Bible, verse 8 says, "For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." With that assurance, we can't afford to lose a minute as we are called to faith, hope, and love in action.

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KEEPING OUR HISTORY ALIVE

by *Velma Hockenberry, Wisconsin Conference UMW Historian*

District Presidents,

I hope you had a chance to appoint a historian for your district. We are still working on specific guidelines and resources for our history records. There are still many questions as to which records to keep and which should be tossed.

The Commission on Archives and History and the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries hosted an Archives Retreat at Pine Lake Camp on November 2-3, 2011 at the Bishop Sharon Rader Retreat Center. I hope some of you were able to attend.

I attended this workshop and gained some insightful information and guidelines for United Methodist Women. The Commission on Archives and History has

put together a booklet for the local church historians, which I think you will find helpful. A copy was available for each district at the Conference Annual Gathering.

Please continue to gather newsletters, flyers, program agendas, and pictures from your district events. Each one tells a story about the work of United Methodist Women.

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TACKLING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

by *Dodie Smith, Social Action Coordinator*

I recently returned from National Seminar, which was held by Women's Division in Birmingham, Alabama. It was a fantastic experience and I will be sharing pieces of it with you throughout my term as Social Action Coordinator.

This time, I would like to share some thoughts and resources on the subject of Domestic Violence. It is one of the four current emphasis of UMW and has been raised as a priority by our Bishop Linda Lee. We are asked to cooperate with United Methodist Men to implement programming in our local churches.

Research on the UMW website (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw>) shows that 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Domestic violence has an effect on all members of the family. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a woman is battered every 12 seconds in the United States. It is probable that within our congregations there are women/men who are suffering from abuse.

The following is a list of resources that you might find helpful



in developing a program for your unit or church.

1. *response* – the magazine of women in mission, Dec. 2010, p.44, “Act to Stop Domestic Violence.” Directives on how to raise awareness in our congregations.
2. *Domestic Violence: What Churches Can Do*, a DVD from Faith Trust Institute with a Study Guide. It runs 20 minutes. I have a copy that I would be happy to send for your use.
3. *What Every Congregation Needs to Know About Domestic Violence* -- A pamphlet produced by UMW and Faith Trust Institute. It is available

from the Mission Resource Center - # M5094.

4. *response* – October 2010 pp. 25-27 “New Beginnings for Domestic Violence Survivors” A report on a successful program in New Mexico.
5. *response* – July-August 2010 pp. 24-25, 26-30, “Micah’s Place” in Fernandina Beach, Fla. And “Crafting Hope in Haiti” Both are programs that are meeting with success.
6. Internet - I Googled “Wisconsin: Domestic Violence” and came up with many options.
7. Contact a local shelter for women and children.

I hope this is helpful. Please contact me if you need additional help locating resources: dodierwsmith@aol.com, or by phone: 262-551-8669.

Also, help members of your church or community secure a photo ID, if they need one to vote (see “It’s All About the Vote” on pg. 5).

Peace to each of you.

READ! READ! READ!

by *Arlene Trull, Secretary of Program Resources*

I have enjoyed being the Conference Secretary of Program Resources, and I’ve worked with some amazing women whom I admire and whose friendships I hold dear. Working with the District Secretaries of Program Resources has also been very rewarding. Providing resources for School of Christian Mission and our Conference Annual Gathering, attending meetings and helping wherever possible has been my main task. Becoming closer to God, mission work, leadership opportunities, supportive fellowship, educational challenges and wonderful friendships have been treasured!

I’ve been so blessed! If given the opportunity to serve our Lord in this way, do say “Yes!”

Plan on using the “Prayer Calendar” in 2012, pray-

ing for our missions and missionaries. And make a decision to participate in the Reading Program.

It will challenge as well as educate you in so many ways. Reading the *response* and *New World Outlook* magazines are part of the Reading Program – and the education.

Keep working for missions!

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE VOTE!

by *Dodie Smith, Social Action Coordinator*

We Can Do Something About This!

The current Wisconsin law requires that beginning in 2012, all persons must have a government issued photo identification card in order to be allowed to vote. Acceptable IDs include a driver's license or a non-driver ID card issued by the state Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Other forms of identification include a U.S. passport or an ID card issued by the U.S. military or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

If one does not have one of these forms of ID, you may get a voter ID card at the DMV Service Center.

You will need to provide the following:

- **Proof of citizenship** - U.S. state or local government issued certificate of birth (certified copy only), a Valid U.S. passport, or a U.S. Certificate of Citizenship (federal form N-560). There are several other options available as well.
- **Proof of identity** – Usually a document with a signature or photo. One example is a Social Security Card issued by the Social Security

Administration. There are other options available.

- **Proof of Wisconsin Residency** – Must be originals: Utility bill or financial institution report with name and address. These must be at least 30 days old. Other options available.
- **Your Social Security number.**
- **Must be 18 by the next election.** Parent must be present.
- Additional information is available from the DMV.

What you can do:

- Inform members of your congregation.
- Offer to help people who need to get an ID. Provide transportation, or help in lining up proper information.
- Reach out to your community and offer your help, especially with transportation.

Please don't forget to mark the **Social Action Event on March 24, 2012** on your calendars. Save the date!

WHERE THE MONEY...IS

by *Joan Moc, Treasurer*

Just a quick note to let you know where we are in the money department. Unfortunately, we have a ways to go to meet our Pledge to Mission. At the end of July we were at 38%. Not quite half-way there.

The collections at School of Christian Mission totalled \$2225.05 for the week-long school and \$782.00 for drive-in day. We sure had a great time at school. There was so much to learn and so many fun things to do.

Thank You all for your generous giving. It sure would be fun to meet our pledge this year.

Annual Gathering was also a wonderful experience. It is always a good time to make new acquaintances and to renew old friendships.

Please continue to purchase Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Missions, Gift in Memory, and give generously at your World Thank Offering programs. Remember you can always contact me for any information you need or questions you may have.

Many good wishes and may God bless you all.

UMW IN THE NEWS

by *Stacy Ganzer*

Did you know we were recently in the news? An article about one of the mission projects featured during the Mission Bowl Parade at Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering of United Methodist Women, in Black River Falls, was included in the Sunday edition of the *Janesville Messenger*. The article highlighted M.O.M.E. (Moms On a Mission Exchange), a mission project that helps “the community of Milton and surrounding areas with clothing needs.”

The article also included a photo (below) of M.O.M.E. director Jolyn Stankus and her family. Conference Vice President Lucy Silvester and Winnebago District President Mary Trettin also managed to sneak into the background. Good job, ladies!

I encourage all of you to share the great work your units are doing in your local communities. I would love to share more of these stories in future editions of *Catch The Vision*.



BRINGING SHALOM THROUGH RECONCILIATION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WISCONSIN: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

by *Lillianette Rosario*

At National Seminar, in Birmingham, Alabama, we learned that reconciliation is the face of justice in the 21st Century. We also learned how the practices of Jesus and his disciples were practices of reconciliation: healing and exorcism, teaching, forgiveness and table fellowship.

Are we admirers of Jesus or are we disciples of Jesus? With this question in mind, we have to ask ourselves if we really are disciples of Jesus. What is it we do to show we are indeed his disciples?

We are at a time of crisis, which is also a time of new possibilities. We need to look for new epiphanies and turn crisis into Kairos time.

The topic that I studied was human trafficking—labor and sex, and, yes, we are experiencing a time of crisis. As United Methodist Women, we need to stand up and take social action to end human trafficking, a problem that exists right here in our own backyard. Wisconsin is experiencing an increasing rate of human trafficking and the statistics don't lie.

While awareness of human trafficking—a crime resembling modern-day slavery—is not widespread, a new study by the Office of Justice Assistance reports that the number of victims in Wisconsin is far greater than previously thought. Over 200 cases of victims forced into sex acts or labor services were reported in a survey of

nearly 400 sexual assault service providers and justice system agencies. Results show that while the occurrence of human trafficking is much higher than expected, awareness of the crime remains low

“This report confirms that human trafficking is a crime hidden in plain sight in Wisconsin—victims are trafficked, forced into labor and sexually exploited, often without the knowledge of law enforcement or service providers,” said Linda Morrison, Exec. Director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against



Sexual Assault and co-chair of the committee that organized the survey. “This is a call to action—we need greater awareness in the justice system, increased services for victims and legislation to increase penalties against perpetrators.” The question still remains, what are we as United Methodist Women to do?

Cases were reported in urban areas like Dane, Milwaukee and Racine counties, as well as in rural central and northwestern counties. The majority of victims (85%) were adults and 75% were victims of sex-related crimes. Respondents

reported that language differences between victims and law enforcement and service providers, as well as a fear of deportation are barriers to victims seeking help. And with this we can see how domestic violence and immigration is inter-related with human trafficking.

The work of justice, reconciliation, is not only a moral act but also a religious act. We cannot be about justice and go to church on Sundays or pray. “We are the ones we've been waiting for.”

We are planning to make a “packet” that will be easy to go through as a facilitator with a group or in a workshop. This packet will contain information, statistics, resources, bible study and media about the social action. Our plans are to develop these packets in English, Spanish and Hmong to give to district officers, local units and all who are willing to

share this information with others. With this we are hoping to spread awareness throughout Wisconsin.

I leave you with this to think about: The ministry of the church is a ministry of reconciliation made specific in practices of healing, forgiveness, teaching, and table fellowship. Please don't look at this as a merely a job or duty, but as a moral act as well as a religious act that will heal the brokenness and bring Shalom—fullness of life. There is no Shalom without reconciliation; there is no reconciliation without you.

Information gathered from:

1. Bible studies- Ana Maria Isasi-Diaz 2. Article: http://oja.state.wi.us/news_print.asp?onid=3215&locid=97

GREEN TEAM UPDATE: HAVE A GREEN, GREEN CHRISTMAS!

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

It's all about a baby in a manger. So why do we turn Christmas into a contest to give the most and get the glitziest? Christmas can be one of the most challenging seasons for a Christian seeking to practice faithful stewardship of creation. Yet, it can be done and you can make choices which reflect the reason for the season—especially by going green. Here are some ideas for your green Christmas:

1. Buy less—make your gifts meaningful, not necessarily numerous. For example, offer services rather than items, offer your talents and time for household chores, car washes, dog walks, lawn care, cooking, etc. Give the gift of experiences: membership in a local museum, zoo or clubs, tickets to local events or attractions. Give the gifts of memory by giving “again” something that has meaning to you.
2. Buy smart—get recycled or used items and give them a “second” life. Buy local items. If you have children, try to give them “battery free” toys (ex. kites, hand powered items, puzzles, etc.).
3. Buy LED tree and outside lights—you can save money on your electric bills and save energy by upgrading your displays to these bright lights. If you do, be sure and recycle your old light sets.
4. Consider a live tree, even a potted one you could use for several years and then plant in the yard. Living plants are better for your indoor air quality. If you get a cut tree, be sure and mulch your tree afterwards. Also consider using and giving natural decorations—holy and greens.
5. Cards—recycle ones you receive and think about making your own. You can always add a ribbon and make your card into an ornament!
6. Gift wrap—think about using towels or potholders, recycling gift bags or using colorful magazine pictures to wrap your goodies. Use (and reuse) ribbon or raffia instead of tape on gift wrap and look for recycled or natural content in gift wrap.
7. Recycle or re-gift any old electronic items. Some items can be donated to good causes. Save those bows and reuse them. And of course, you can always give a gift to mission! That's a gift which keeps on giving.

Be creative, give from the heart and know that faithful stewardship is a key part of the Christmas season. May you find the blessings of a greener Christmas living in your heart for all the days of the year.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING—MISSIONS!

by *Bev Maser, Education and Interpretation*

Being your Coordinator for Education and Interpretation has been a great time in my life. I trust it has also been enjoyable for you, too.

We are so much more aware of what is happening in the world these days, which helps us understand what needs to be done.

I hope you come and listen whenever and wherever United Methodist Women's programs are

being held. It is a gift that keeps on giving throughout the year!

A great way to continue expanding your concepts of mission is through the Mission Today Program! EVERY UNIT, no matter how large or small, *can* be a MISSION TODAY UNIT!

Challenge yourselves to learn more about how your mission dollars work in your communities, our state, the nation and the world!

THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve with and for you in the great Wisconsin Conference!!

A warm welcome to your new Coordinator of E & I, Kay Putman. Keep the peace and fire glowing for Missions!

God Bless!

Beverly Maser

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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
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FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

LOOKING AHEAD 2012 DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday - Saturday January 13-14	Conference Meeting @ Waupaca
Friday- Saturday April 20-21	Conference Meeting @ Sun Prairie
Tuesday - Wednesday June 19-20	North Central Jurisdiction Gathering 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 LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED
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