

# Capital Comments

SUMMER, 2012

Keeping Capital District United Methodist Women Informed



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Capital District United Methodist Women,

It's time to start thinking about attending School of Christian Mission this summer. I want to encourage you to attend either the four-day school or overview day. The four-day school is Tuesday, July 31 through Friday, August 3, and the overview day is Saturday, August 4. We will be in Wausau instead of Stevens Point. We will also need to make our own hotel reservations this year. A registration form is included in this newsletter. Make as many copies of the form as you need. If you have never attended SOCM before, I hope you will consider it this year. It is a great opportunity to meet women from all over the state. I hope to see you in August.

Thank you to all of the units that have sent me your program books. It is not too late to send me a book. If you want to save the postage you can give it to me this summer at School of Mission.

Have you scheduled your visit with your sister yet? It is important for us to visit your unit. We want to get to know you and share ideas. If you have any questions or need information, don't hesitate to contact me or your sister. We will help you find the answers.

I know fall seems a long way off, but it will be here before we know it. Put September 29 on your calendar, and plan to join us in Portage for the District Annual Gathering. The Conference Annual Gathering is October 19 and 20 in Sun Prairie. More specific details for both of these events will be in the next newsletter.

Blessings,

*Linda Whitelock*

Capital District President



4-day School of Christian Mission  
Tuesday—Friday  
July 31-August 3, 2012  
Overview Day, Saturday, August 4  
(See flyer pages 7-10)  
In Wausau, Wisconsin

## OUR VICE PRESIDENT ~ MISSION IN CHALLENGING TIMES

### CAPITAL DISTRICT ANNUAL GATHERING SEPTEMBER 29, 2012 at PORTAGE UMC

Happy May, UMW sisters! We've experienced summer and spring already even though it's not July yet. Because of the mixed up weather I'm asking you this question-- Are you ready for fall and our Capital District Annual Gathering? It will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Portage UMC. Even though it's a week or two earlier than usual, please don't think I'm rushing the seasons. However, I do want you to put the date and place on your calendar if you've not done so already.

In our last newsletter I told you our theme: "Faith, Hope and Love in Action" with a focus on "Mission in Challenging Times." The challenging issues are immigration, human trafficking, the economy and our own future as United Methodist Women. At the School of Christian Mission this summer, the country study will be Haiti, the Spiritual Growth study will be Immigration in the Bible and the issue study will be poverty. (More information available on pg 7.)

For the years that I've helped plan our AG, we have included opportunities to learn about mission through keynote addresses, worship, workshops and even food. We've also included opportunities for personal inspiration and interaction with people in mission. This year will be no different.

Over lunch we're planning to have time for you to share what you are doing in your units so you can learn from one another and still have time to make new friends and to catch up with dear friends from past UMW events.

This is my fourth Annual Gathering to help plan. Each year we've promised to provide learning and inspirational opportunities as well as opportunities to laugh and sing joyful songs. Please put September 29<sup>th</sup> and Portage UMC on your calendar and join your Capital District sisters (and possibly brothers) to put "Faith, Hope and Love in Action" for "Mission in Challenging Times."

See you in Portage, if not before!

In mission together,  
Sue Plasterer, Vice President

## SOCIAL ACTION IN THE WORLD OF ADDICTION

**FACTS: Alcohol and other drug abuse is a problem for everyone!**

### According to The Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention...

- One out of every eight Americans is the child of an alcoholic.
- Impaired driving is the leading cause of death for young people.
- 70% of all people who use illicit drugs are employed.
- 49% of murders, 20-35% of suicides, 62% of assaults, 52% of rapes, 38% of child abuse, 50% of domestic violence, 69% of drowning, and 68% of manslaughter charges involve drug abuse.

### Some Important Resources:

- [NIAAA.nih.gov/](http://NIAAA.nih.gov/) – National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- [www.drugabuse.gov/](http://www.drugabuse.gov/) – National Institute on Drug Abuse
- [www.AA.org](http://www.AA.org) – Alcoholics Anonymous
- [www.NA.org](http://www.NA.org) – Narcotics Anonymous
- [UMSPSARV.org](http://UMSPSARV.org) – Global Ministries Organization
- [CDAP.org](http://CDAP.org) – Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention

## **SOCIAL ACTION: HOPE FOR THE WORLD OF ADDICTION**

**Phyllis Elizabeth May and Bishop Felton Edwin May, retired, United Methodist Church...**

We are challenged, as the United Methodist Church, as a people of hope, to place ourselves in situations where there is hopelessness and fill these spaces with the hope we know that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord and our Savior. For, if our church is to stay alive and vital, it must become a "Saving Station." Only the church has the ability to appropriate the grace of God that can change the human condition. We are the body of Christ; we are to bring hope, for in us is the Hope of Glory. Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

**When the people of the world look at us, do they see hope? Do they see through our actions the love of Christ? Do they see a way out of their brokenness to a place of hope, forgiveness, and reconciliation? Let us be a movement, not a structure. Let us be a people of hope.**

**The people of the United Methodist Church...**

Drug addiction crosses all ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds. The United States policy response to the drug crisis has focused almost exclusively on law enforcement and military solutions. This policy, in some cases, has led to the erosion of precious civil liberties and human rights, especially for poor and minority communities. The United Methodist Church commits itself to a holistic approach, which emphasizes prevention, intervention, treatment, community organization, public advocacy, and abstinence. The church must have a positive role by offering a renewed spiritual perspective on this crisis.

**Global Ministries – The United Methodist Church...**

The United Methodist Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence (**SPSARV**) coordinates the denomination's global response to alcohol, chemical abuse and dependency and related violence. **Our Mission** – diminish the stigma associated with the disease of addiction; foster ministry responses of prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, and/or public policy; nurture networks of committed United Methodists who provide peer support and inspire leadership throughout the global connection; and celebrate wholeness, the recovery from brokenness.

### **AN INVITATION FROM OUR SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR:**

Please join us on July 14, 2012 at 4:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church in Whitewater for a program of personal testimonies of three recovering addicts that have turned their lives around through the saving grace of Jesus Christ, with a presentation called "This is my Story, This is my Song." All are invited and a campfire sing-along will follow. Contact Social Action Coordinator Elaine Frietsch at 262-308-8752 for more info.

*"[Jesus] has brought us by faith into this experience of God's grace...[so we have] hope of sharing God's glory....We [also] know that trouble produces endurance, endurance brings God's approval, and his approval creates hope....God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit." Excerpts from Romans 5:2-5*

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH: IMMIGRATION IN THE BIBLE

The Spiritual Growth text for School of Christian Mission and for our 2013 unit program use has been printed and is now available for you to order. Hurray!

"Immigration in the Bible" by Joan M. Maruskin will be the study. Our General Conference will be addressing this subject in May, so look for an update on their Call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (#5081, 2008 BOR) declaration to compare changes.

"But what can I do?" Be informed about where our government stands on this issue...be informed where you as a member of the United Methodist Church stand on this issue...pray and listen and study and discuss what God wants you to do, where you live, work, and worship.

In Bible studies and unit worship periods, you might look at Luke 10:25-37, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and think of the clergy and the UMW instead of the Jewish priest and the Levite...and of an illegal instead of the Samaritan...hmmm.

The Old Testament says to you and me...

*When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:33-34, NIV*

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says to you and me...

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..*

*Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

Enjoy this challenging study!

Mary Friederich  
Spiritual Growth

Want to be part of UMW online or read UMW district newsletters from all over the state? Just go to:

<http://www.wisconsinumw.org>

This website, created by Stacy Ganzer, takes the place of the old one. Check out the information about SOCM 2012, find useful UMW forms, and view all of the helpful links to other important sites. The latest issue of *Catch the Vision* is there, too.

### NOTES FROM NOMINATING

**Needed:** A few good women willing to come to the aid of our Great Capital District!

We are grateful for those who already have said yes to the challenge of being part of an awesome team, but we still need a few more women willing to join us. If you feel God calling you to this challenge, please contact one of us on the Nominating Committee. In fact, please listen carefully to hear if God is calling you (or perhaps a friend of yours) to be part of the Nominating Committee—we have openings, especially for someone familiar with the northern part of Capital District.

In Christ, Nancy Hansen-Bennett, Chair

915 N. Garfield Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

(608.752.9149)

**FROM YOUR TREASURER—FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S MISSION**

Thank you to all of the local unit treasurers who have been sending in pledge monies and other gifts for mission.

So far, I've been able to send a total of \$20,065 to the Conference. Of that amount, \$16,136 was for your Pledge to Mission. That is a good beginning on the road to meeting our pledge of \$68,000 to Conference mission giving, but there is still a long way to go.

Just a couple of reminders for your unit treasurers: Please use the forms that have been provided when you submit your funds. Also, for Special Mission Recognitions, be sure to include names and also the name/address of the person who will be receiving the pin(s).

There have been a few envelopes that have gone to Dayle that should have come to me. See below for my addresses for your payments or if you have questions.

Anne Scott - Treasurer  
2561 Roanoke Circle  
Madison, WI 53719  
608-271-4813 email: [ascott1167@aol.com](mailto:ascott1167@aol.com)



**EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION—GO, WOMEN, GO!!**

My job description as District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation is to help women understand, interpret and participate in mission giving and outreach of the church.

When I was a kid over 60 years ago our church women always kept things moving and were there when there was a need. The need list was long as we had just gone through the Great Depression, and our women were always there.

Now our giving reaches out to the

missions that are far from our church. For over 100 years our giving and learning of mission needs have moved our women forward in many ways.

I would like to thank all the Capital District Units for their missions and caring. **Also thanks to those that returned their Mission Today Reports.** These reports keep everyone up to date as to what our District is accomplishing.

**If your Unit has not sent me the completed form, please do so now.**

As United Methodist Women we have joined the ministry of Jesus in God's mission as did the women in Luke 8:13 and in many other areas of the Bible. Therefore, go women go, as you have done, and do, so many good things every day. Here is looking to a great future of mission work for 2012 with God's help.

In God's love continue UMW action.  
Char Brereton  
Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

**Mission needs have moved our women forward.**

**Email Version of Capital Comments.** If you would like to receive your Capital Comments newsletter by email, please send an email request to [gerlaj@gmail.com](mailto:gerlaj@gmail.com). The newsletter comes in PDF form which can usually be opened by anyone. If you should have difficulty opening the newsletter simply go to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and download the free Adobe Reader.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES—READING PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Program Resource News

I hope that so far this year you and other unit members and also others in your church have been using the reading program books to inform and form your ideas of being a Christian in our world today. I was talking to a friend in Madison about not having enough reviews in my articles, and she is reading a book from each category and will be reviewing them for us. Though she attends church at First Baptist-Madison, she is looking forward to receiving a certificate in September. I mentioned this to another friend that I ran into at an Africa ELI mission update, and she has also submitted a review. I hope these can be posted in your libraries or used in your newsletter to promote the reading program. E-copies of these reviews are available.

**Turn-in deadline for this year's book list is September 7, 2012.** This year, Annual Gathering is at the end of September, so please be prompt in getting the lists in.

Readers should keep a copy of their lists, to avoid repeats next year.

What I need is a list with the reader's name, unit, contact phone number (who I should talk to if I need to ask questions about the list) and then the list itself. The list needs the book title, book's category and which year the book was on the list.

I count books from this year and the last five years (2007-2012). If you can't find a book on any list, call or e-mail me, and I can look on my data base to see if the book is on the current lists. The adult mission study books count for any category on the list.

Keep reading!

Karen Mayeshiba  
Program Resources  
1702 Lynndale Rd.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-277-1883    kamayeshiba@yahoo.com



## A REVIEW OF A BOOK IN THE READING PROGRAM

**All Creation Sings**      By J. Ellsworth Kalas  
Category: Spiritual Growth    Program Year: 2012

If this author's name is familiar to you, Dr. Kalas served First Church in Madison as a young man. With his years of pastoring and teaching at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, he brings a depth of study and a breadth of life experience to his writing.

The book consists of twelve independent essays that begin with a biblical text associated with nature, for example, Isaiah 1:1-8 and Matthew 5:43-48. Kalas then expands the natural reference to our Christian life and faith.

I started reading this book on a cold spring morning. I confess I was dubious about getting all excited about the wonders of creation. There wasn't anything wonderful happening outside my front door. 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. Kalas tells us we must go beyond the green movement to learn nature's lessons about life and God.

I chose to read this book as a daily devotional. The chapters are 8-10 pages long. You could also read this book as part of a book discussion group that meets either weekly or monthly. There are discussion questions in the back of the book for each chapter. Don't miss these even if you are reading this book on your own. They give a summary of the chapter, questions which step you through each essay and conclude with a prayer. These questions may help you if you like to journal or if you are uncertain of any given section of the chapter. In my opinion, All Creation Sings is a must read.

Reviewed by Merrill Woolnough

Merrill is a friend of Karen who attends First Baptist Church in Madison.

# Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women School of Christian Mission



## THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE

*As people of Christ, let us change what needs to be changed, say what needs to be said, do what needs to be done and love the way Christ would have us love so that all may have life and have it abundantly.*



**School of Christian Mission: Tuesday-Friday, July 31-Aug. 3, 2012**  
**Overview (formerly Drive-In) Day: Saturday, August 4, 2012**

## 2012 Mission Studies

### **Immigration in the Bible (2012)**

This study shares the story of the Bible as a narrative of immigrants and migration. Exploring the Biblical and theological understandings of immigration, immigrants and migration, this study seeks to enable the participants to examine what it is to be a sojourner and to live into the biblical mandate of hospitality for "the stranger" and "aliens" in our midst.

### **Haiti (2011-2012)**

This study is an overview of the cultures that shaped Haiti's past and the ongoing legacy of colonialism, along with glimpses into the heart and soul of Haiti's people through pictures and Creole adages. It also includes the impact of the devastating January 12th earthquake in 2010. Although much focus is on the avenues available for those wishing to help the people of Haiti rebuild, the study's approach and perspective go well beyond the immediate need of recovery from the earthquake. According to Rev. Dr. Pierre, "The primary purpose of this endeavor is to encourage on-going exchanges of cultural understanding, mutual respect, and mission partnership between the people of The United Methodist Church and people of God in Haiti."

### **Poverty (2012-2013)**

Our Christian faith invites us to become agents of God's compassion and healing in a wounded world. Poverty is a human rights issue with grave impact on women and children. This mission study on poverty is designed to help participants recognize and claim for themselves the connections between Scripture, church tradition, compassion for the poor, social outreach and social justice.

Biblical passages remind Christians of their responsibility for poverty. The Wesleyan movement embraced this concern by creating community centers where people could access education, medical care or employment, and members of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations have continued this heritage and responded to the poor where they exist.

### **Young People**

Middle school through college age young men and women will enjoy special programming, including the opportunity to join in mission studies; share in meaningful worship, recreation, team building and volunteering; and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

### **YoMiCa (Youth Mission Camp—Grades 3-8)**

Located at the United Methodist's beautiful Pine Lake camp, this is an exciting event that also teaches about mission. The students will participate in typical camp activities, like swimming, arts and crafts, games and getting in touch with nature. In addition, the camp mirrors the adult classes by learning about mission. Yomica begins Sunday at 3:00 pm and culminates in a Friday afternoon presentation at 2:30 pm (July 31-Aug. 5) Call Camp office with questions: 608-837-3388. See <http://www.wiumcamps.org/documents/MiddleSchoolCatalog2010.pdf> for more information and registration. Leaders: Tim and Kara Finley.

**Westwood Conference Center • Wausau, WI**

Summer 2012

**Who?**

The Wisconsin School of Christian Mission is for everyone: women, men, youth, laity, clergy- *You!*

**What?**

The Wisconsin School of Christian Mission is where people of all ages come together to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context through study, fellowship, worship and fun.

**\*\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\*\*****Westwood Conference Center—Wausau**

1800 Westwood Center Blvd.

Wausau, WI 54401

Exit I-39/29/51 at Exit 193 (Bridge St.)

715-847-9200

See larger map on page 10

**When?**SOCM:

Tuesday–Friday, July 31-Aug. 3rd

Saturday, August 4, 2012—Overview Day

YoMiCa:

Sunday-Friday, July 29-August 3, 2012

**Why?**

School of Christian Mission is a wonderful time to learn about one of the precepts of the church: mission. Not only is it educational and fun, but it is a great vacation bargain!

**How?**

Register using the registration pages. Please fill in all the boxes. You may make as many copies of the registration form as needed.

OR email your registration and save a stamp.

OR go to [www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org) to register online.

**Questions?**

Contact the registrar:

**Chris Draxler**

**715-835-1402**

**email: [fdraxler@charter.net](mailto:fdraxler@charter.net)**

# Wisconsin Conference School of Christian Mission

## Four-Day School

Tuesday, July 31– Friday, Aug. 3

**Registration** 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Tuesday the 31st

**Opening Plenary** 10:30 a.m. Tuesday

**Sending Forth** 12:30 p.m. Friday 3rd

**Meals:** Four-Day student meals begin with lunch on Tuesday the 31st and end with breakfast (at the hotel) on Friday the 3rd.

**Cost:** Four-Day Students– registration (you must make your own hotel reservations separately. Block of rooms available at the Fairfield Inn.)

**-\$165.00 (\$215.00 if received after July 1st)**

Advanced registration is **REQUIRED**. No registrations will be accepted after July 15th. *Transferable but not refundable.*

**To register, use form on page 9.**

*Don't forget to order your study book when registering. See page 9!*

## Overview (formerly Drive-In) Day

Saturday, August 4th

**Registration** 8:15 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

**Opening Plenary** 9:00 a.m.

Overview of all three mission studies.

Special tables at lunch for young people.

Study books and reading materials available for purchase.

Mission offering taken.

**Sending Forth:** 3:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Overview Day student **\$40.00 (\$45.00 after July 1st)**

**Advanced registration is encouraged** and is *transferable but not refundable*. To register, use registration form on page 10

Each person needs a separate form—photocopy as needed.



# Overview Day (Saturday) 2012 Registration

(Use one form per person; duplicate as needed. Please print and fill out entire form)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Local Church/City \_\_\_\_\_

Overview Day includes worship, an overview of all three mission studies, an offering taken for Mission Giving, lunch and closing communion. Lunch will be provided in a room conveniently located at the Conference Center. Displays, Program Resources and the Learning Center will also be available. **Complete the following with the appropriate dollar amounts (see fees on page 8).**

Overview Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Young Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child Care needed for \_\_\_\_\_ children. Please list age(s) of child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Young Person's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Dietary/Physical Needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Send full payment by July 1st to:**  
 Chris Draxler  
 2139 Walnut Ridge Dr., Eau Claire WI 54701  
 Phone: 715-835-1402  
 fdraxler@charter.net

Make Checks Payable to: SOCM  
 UMW Wisconsin Conference

*No refunds given, but substitutions will be accepted. A confirmation of your registration will be mailed or emailed to you.*

## Westwood Conference Center

1800 Westwood Center Blvd.  
 Wausau, WI 54401 • 715-847-9200

### Driving from the NORTH on US 51/I-39

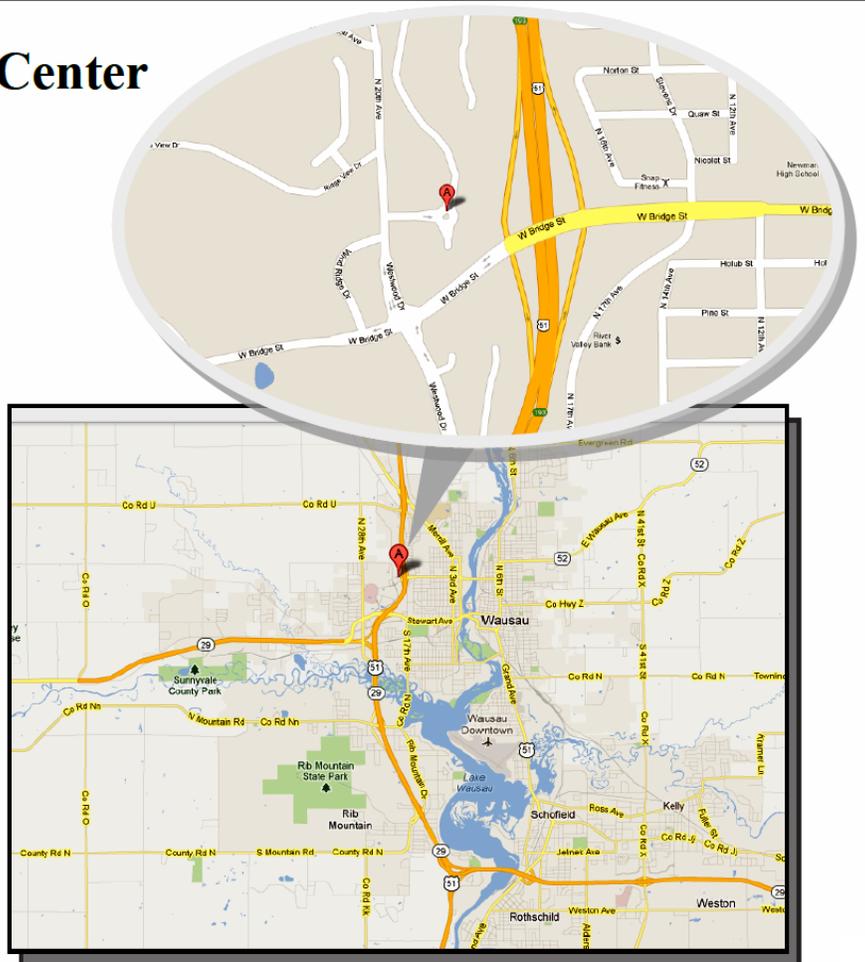
Take Exit 193 (Bridge Street).  
 Turn right at Bridge Street (0.3 mi).  
 Turn right at Westwood Drive (0.1 mi).  
 Turn right at Westwood Center Boulevard, follow and take right off of roundabout to continue onto Westwood Center Boulevard (427 ft). Visitor parking is on your left.

### Driving from the SOUTH on US 51/I-39

Take Exit 193 (Bridge Street).  
 Turn left at Bridge Street (0.3 mi).  
 Turn right at Westwood Drive (0.1 mi).  
 Turn right at Westwood Center Boulevard, follow and take right off of roundabout to continue onto Westwood Center Boulevard (427 ft). Visitor parking is on your left.

### Driving from the EAST or WEST on US 29

Merge with US 51/I-39 North.  
 Take Exit 193 (Bridge Street).  
 Turn left at Bridge Street (0.3 mi).  
 Turn right at Westwood Drive (0.1 mi).  
 Turn right at Westwood Center Boulevard, follow and take right off of roundabout to continue onto Westwood Center Boulevard (427 ft). Visitor parking is on your left.



## INFORMATION ON LODGING AT SOCM

One of the changes this year is with housing for the event. We are responsible for making our own hotel reservations. There is a block of rooms being held at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Weston, WI. The room rate is \$89 per night, regardless of whether there are one or four people in the room. A hot breakfast is also included. There will be a bus to and from the Conference Center in the morning and evening. A van will run throughout the day between the Conference Center and the hotel at no extra charge. Fairfield Inn & Suites is at 7100 Stone Ridge Drive in Weston, WI. The phone number is [715-241-8400](tel:715-241-8400).

You are not required to stay in this hotel, but if you stay somewhere else you will be responsible for your own transportation to and from the Conference Center. Breakfast will not be provided at the Conference Center either.

If you want to attend the four-day school and you need a roommate, please contact Karen Mayeshiba at [kamayeshiba@yahoo.com](mailto:kamayeshiba@yahoo.com) or 608-277-1883. She will collect contact information and help people find roommates. You will still need to make your own reservations.

## A REVIEW OF A BOOK IN THE READING PROGRAM

**Women Lead the Way** by Linda Tarr-Whelan  
Category: Leadership Development  
Program Year: 2012

This insightful book deals with issues that are on the minds of many women as we see some of the political decisions being made in our country today. Decisions which directly affect women are being made by groups that have only a small representation of women. Our U.S. Congress is made up of 83% men and only 17% women. With women being more than 50% of our nation's population, we need to work toward getting more women in leadership roles if we are going to have more balanced decision making.

Whelan suggests using a 30% solution for women in leadership. She views 30% as the tipping point for allowing the female view to be heard. Many countries have even included a requirement of 30% women's leadership in their constitutions. We learned recently from Anita Henderlight, Executive Director of Africa Education & Leadership Initiative (Africa ELI), that even our newest country of South Sudan has a requirement of 25% women in leadership that they are striving to meet.

As we think about voting, we women need to look for strong women candidates whom we can support and for whom we can vote. We need to consider how we can help more girls and young women grow up expecting to be leaders. The motto of one women's group in Kentucky cited in this book is, "Some leaders are born women."

*Women Lead the Way* speaks to today's women's issues and looks at ways to find solutions to the woeful lack of women in leadership. 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. If you have been disturbed by the ways in which states around our country and Congress in our nation's capitol have been dealing with women's issues, then you need to read this book. It is on our 2012 UMW Reading List under the category of Leadership.

Reviewed by Marilyn Eyster  
Marilyn is a member of Milton UMC, is Vice-President of her UMW Unit and is a past editor of Capital Comments.

## NORTHCOTT HOUSE CELEBRATES 51 YEARS!

**Northcott's Annual Meeting and Dinner** was held at Heartlove Place in Milwaukee on Sunday, April 22nd. A nearly overflow crowd came to celebrate 51 years of Northcott's presence on Milwaukee's near north side.

In recent years they have expanded their job training in the construction and renovating of new homes, and they're proud that they have been able to provide area residents with vital job skills.

Ongoing programs continue to include Head Start and after-school youth activities as well as the food pantry, GED classes, parent-oriented programs to enhance family skills and a variety of other recreational and educational programs for youth and families.

After a rousing rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and a buffet dinner prepared by Heartlove employees, various volunteer awards were presented. A highlight was seeing the Northcott Head Start children perform several musical selections. Such cute kids!

Labels for Northcott must include the UPC Code to be counted. Include the LABELS FOR EDUCATION symbol, also. (See sample below.)



### Blessing and Being Blessed—Keynote speech about Faith Works Ministry

The keynote speaker was Pastor Susan Patterson-Sumwalt from the Whitefish Bay UMC. For years Whitefish Bay has had a program called Faith Works Ministry. Based on James 2:14 – *What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him?* – Whitefish Bay devotes the second Saturday of each month to work time at Northcott. Pastor Susan showed slides of members

helping in the Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, doing outside work, painting/washing walls and just generally making the facility safer for those who come to Northcott. She emphasized that although the Whitefish Bay members planned to "be a blessing to Northcott," they have found that they are the ones who have been blessed and have built relationships and friendships with those at Northcott.

If at any time your unit or your church as a whole wishes to take up a collection of items for Northcott, I would be happy to get the donations to them. Just bring your stuff to any of our Capital District events, and I'll take it from there! Northcott can always use food pantry items, children's clothing/books, diapers, office supplies and small tools.

See you all at School of Christian Mission,

Barb Taylor  
Northcott Neighborhood House Rep.

Address: 2460 North 6th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212-2756

Phone number: 414.372.3770

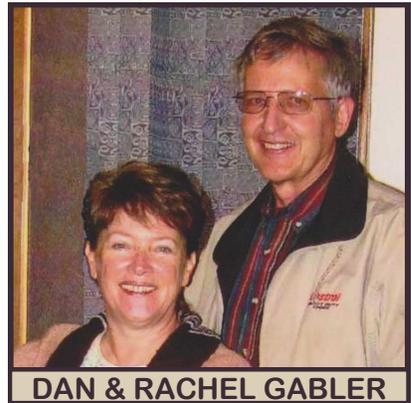
Website: [www.northcotthouse.org](http://www.northcotthouse.org)

# MISSIONARY NEWS GABLERS ARE MOVING

Excerpts from some of Rachel's emails:

**MARCH 6, 2012**

**We are being transferred to Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**



DAN & RACHEL GABLER

**The purpose of this transfer** is for Dan to head up the United Methodist Aviation Ministries (UMAM) maintenance base that the three aviation programs are wanting to have in Lubumbashi.

One of the catalysts in this process is the need of the programs to transition from airplanes that use av gas to airplanes that use Jet-A fuel. Wings of the Morning North Katanga will be the first to switch and will be purchasing a Caravan within the next six months.

By July, Wings of the Morning North Katanga should have their Cessna Caravan, and it will need outfitting for Africa. Dan may be involved in the preparation of the plane in the States.

**PRAY FOR THIS--TIMING, FINANCES AND THE RIGHT PLANE.**

**MARCH 11, 2012**

*Rachel's advice on border crossings on their first trip to Lubumbashi: You just have to be cheerful and act dumb. I am particularly good at the acting dumb part. (And I don't want to hear any comment about whether it is acting or not!)*

**MARCH 25, 2012**

We now have a house in Lubumbashi! Because housing is tight, the decision was made to take it now. So for one month we have two houses. It makes our heads spin! ... we need to move up there as soon as is mentally, emotionally and physically possible.

**APRIL 17, 2012**

Packing, packing, packing. "Camping" in our house. (Not fun.) Can't find anything. What we need we've already packed. How is it all going to fit?

**A praise and a prayer:** Kasongo's book in French is set to be printed here in Nelspruit for Congo (Kasongo's country). Half the funds are raised to do this, and **if we can, and can get it into the container** we are packing, packing, packing, we arrive [in Congo] with a treasure on board. As I type, the print-ready-proof is with a French speaker/reader who is giving it one more look. [A little aside: Just tonight we took the print-ready-proof to the person who had agreed to review it. He and his wife had no idea what the book was. I just got a text message from his wife asking how they can get two copies of the book for themselves.] It is so wonderful to have a powerful tool like this that so clearly speaks for itself. Imagine what it is going to do in Congo! (*Donations are welcome*)

**Anita Henderlight and Africa ELI 2012 Wisconsin Tour**

She came for ten 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.”

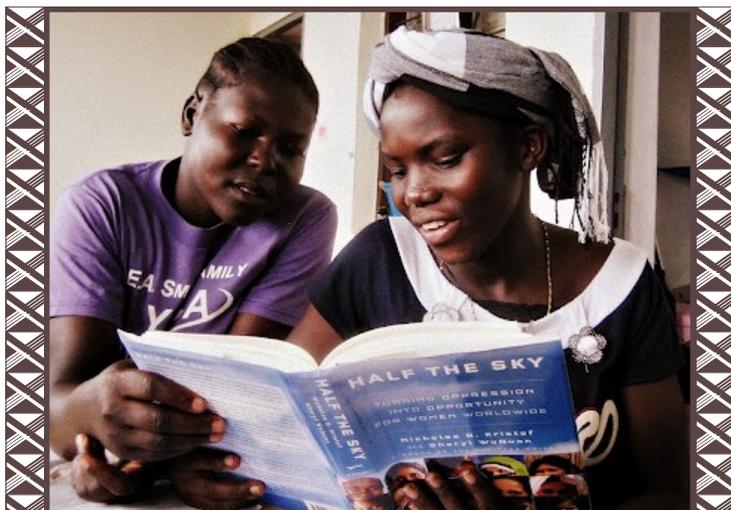
Marvelous women of Capital, Winnebago, and Heartland Districts, as well as Wisconsin Conference UMW, planned her tour and took her to 21 different venues traveling well over 1,200 miles. She even preached in Port Edwards.



The flag of South Sudan, with Wisconsin friends.

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 McDonald’s 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 stays in contact with staff, students and supporters throughout the U.S. 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.



Africa ELI girls read [Half the Sky](#), a book co-written by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn that tells the stories of remarkable women across the world, and gives a voice to the importance of empowerment for women in developing countries.



Anita and tall friend.

“Our” girls read. A good book to start with in the UMW Reading Program!

## **DID YOU MISS ANITA'S VISIT? NOT TO WORRY...**

**A 2013 Wisconsin Tour is being planned** as well. Anita will return on Saturday, April 27, and leave on Monday, May 6, 2013. 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](mailto:seplast@charter.net) or Marilyn Eyster at 608-868-3585 or [marilyn\\_eyster@msn.com](mailto: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.**

## **GENERAL CONFERENCE APPROVES UMW AUTONOMY!**

Excerpts from a May 1, 2012 article by Yvette Moore (editor of *Response Magazine*)

By a vote of 889 to 20, General Conference made United Methodist Women an autonomous organization within the United Methodist Church during its quadrennial meeting on May 1 in Tampa, FL. The historic vote separates the national policymaking body of women organized for mission within the denomination from the church's mission agency for the first time in more than 70 years.

"This is a great result for United Methodist Women and for the church, and positions us for the next 143 years of mission," said Harriett Jane Olson, chief executive of the national United Methodist Women organization.

United Methodist Women members at the event were elated. "This is good for

everyone," said Elsie Olsen, spiritual growth mission coordinator for Florida Conference United Methodist Women. "The timing is right. The General Board of Global Ministries agrees. Everyone supports it!" Carol Toney, reserve delegate from North Alabama Conference agreed. "This is what we wanted!" said Ms. Toney, president of her conference's Northeast District United Methodist Women. "I'm excited about the opportunity this gives us to be more in service to our sisters and brothers around the world."

**"This gives us the autonomy to put our faith, hope and love into action!"**

## **WISCONSIN CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE – 2012**

Who: For all units/local organizations/circles in Wisconsin Conference

What: A program\* geared to Wisconsin about issues of race. Duration 30-45 minutes.

Where: At any place that United Methodist Women meet

When: Any time in 2012 and after

Why: \*To become aware of what is happening in our own communities

\*To become more aware of people hurting around us

\*To be able to live peacefully in our neighborhoods, both local and extended

\*To get credit for #7 on the Mission Today activities list

How: By using this prepared program\* in your local unit/organization/circle.

\*Copies of this prepared program will be mailed to each unit/circle in Capital District this summer by District President Linda Whitelock. She will also be including suggestions for celebrating UMW Sunday.

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## CAPITAL DISTRICT 2012 UMW EVENTS CALENDAR

### **School of Christian Mission**

July 31—Aug. 3, Tuesday-Friday  
Four-day school

August 4, Saturday, Overview Day  
at the Westwood Convention Center,  
Wausau, WI

**Recommended Housing** (includes shuttle):  
Fairfield Inn & Suites in Westin, WI

### **Capital District Annual Gathering**

September 29, Saturday,  
at Portage UMC, Portage, WI

### **Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering**

October 19 & 20, Friday-Saturday  
at Sun Prairie UMC, Sun Prairie, WI