



President's Message

by Laura Pfeffer, President

UMW Sisters,

Our topic for this year's Mission Action Day is homelessness. When I lived in Madison, I often volunteered to serve food at a men's homeless shelter downtown. It was a small act which allowed me to put a face on the problem. I always tried to offer a smile to each individual as they passed down the serving line, an acknowledgment of the image of God each man represented. I knew, because I made and packed lunches for them to take, that many of these men had jobs and yet work did not enable them to obtain affordable housing.

I didn't know all of the reasons these men were on the streets, but I did know that some reasons were

systemic ones. It can be easy to stereotype, stigmatize or otherwise blame the homeless for their situations, yet the recent housing crisis should teach us as that anyone might end up in a situation which leads to becoming homeless. Because there are many factors involved in homelessness we need many workers to engage in this mission field. I invite you to prayerfully consider what you might bring to the table as we seek to heal this brokenness.

I hope that you are also looking forward to our Mission studies for 2015. Those of you who may have taken the study on "The Church and People with Disabilities" know that this topic is one in which United Methodist Women is seeking to lead

the church to embrace, empower and confirm the gifts of all people. It is a tremendously important study and I hope you will continue to engage in this topic in the coming year.

I am certain that our two new studies: "Latin America" and "Created for Happiness" will be just as transformative and relevant. I hope you will take advantage of the wonderful resources these studies represent and invite others in your church to utilize them as well.

Reserve your dates now and plan to be at Mission 2015. It is an opportunity to learn to put Faith, Hope and Love into Action!

Laura Pfeffer, President
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Program Resources

by Gloria Carter

As you begin a new year, I hope you're making good use of all the great resources available to United Methodist Women.

The Prayer Calendar keeps us in touch with mission and missionaries.

The 2015 Reading Program books, available last fall, are great companions for those winter days when you want to be snug inside with a good book.

And, *response magazine* continues to be one of my favorite resources, offering something for everyone. Every issue includes a Bible study to enable our spiritual growth. Read and ponder the articles to learn more about the important work United Methodist Women is doing in the world, how our Mission Giving supports that work, and how United Methodist Women are at work on issues of social action for a more just world.

The January issue of *response* also emphasizes the five year celebration leading up to the anniversary of women organizing for mission in 1869. As a part of the celebration the Legacy Fund is being established as an endowment to ensure another 150 years of women in mission.

Finally, take a look at the prayer on page 46 at the end of the magazine. This is a prayer that needs to be shared with every group of United Methodist Women.

United Methodist Women is rich in program resources, and we are enriched when we use them.

Treasurer's Report

By Mary Rather, Treasurer

Happy New Year to all WONDERFUL WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN!

Wasn't it just a week ago that I wrote that Thanksgiving was approaching? And here we are enjoying winter!

The local units in our Wisconsin Conference showed their thankfulness by contributing close to \$25,000 to the World Thank Offering. Our total Mission Giving came to \$287,649.95. Another \$23,349.82 went to Mission Giving Plus.

In the next few years we will be

celebrating 150 years of Mission. 1869 is the birth year of what is now United Methodist Women. How blessed we are to be able to celebrate that. Pause for a moment and think of the women in our past. Not only the women in our families – think of the women in our Church family and especially the women of our United Methodist Heritage.

We will be sharing stories of these women and the wonderful things our organization has done and will continue to do in the fu-

ture. Our foremothers have left us a great legacy and we are challenged to do the same.

Several of our District Treasurers have had some health and personal issues and I want to send a big Thank You to all who stepped up to help out in these situations. It has been a difficult few months. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

I wish you peace, good health, and happiness in the New Year.

Are You Accountable?

By Michele Hopp, Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

Does your inner “stubborn little girl” come out whenever someone makes you accountable for your actions? Mine sure does! I even cringed when I wrote the title to the article, “Are You Accountable?”

At work, when I hear questions like, “Did you finish that report?” or “Did you remember to process the checks?” most of the time I am grateful for the reminder, but sometimes I regress to my inner child, thinking thoughts like, “You're not the boss of me, I'll get it done when I want to!”

One night many years ago I was stopped by a police officer because I was speeding. When he handed me a ticket, I wasn't thinking, “Thank you for making me accountable for my bad behavior. It would be terrible if I caused an accident by my reckless speed!” Instead I was thinking, “Couldn't that officer have given me a break? I wasn't going that fast, and I was running late.”

I think most of us hate being held accountable. It's hard to admit

when we are wrong.

So when I was invited to attend a weekly accountability group at my church, I wasn't in any hurry to say yes. After all, who in their right mind would want to have a group of their church friends hear about their mistakes each week? Definitely not me!

But after much coaxing, I decided to give it a try.

And you know what? I liked it!

Each week in our small group meeting, we asked each other these questions:

- When did you feel closest to Christ?
- When did you respond to God's call to be His disciple?
- When was your faith tested through failure?
- What is your plan for spirituality, study and action for the next week?

Instead of stubbornly digging my heels in and refusing to participate, I was eagerly answering the

questions. During the week, I found myself looking for my “closest to Christ moments.” I would sometimes get so excited when I saw God working in my life that I couldn't even wait until the next meeting to talk about it. I had to call one of my church friends immediately to tell them how God had blessed me.

I discovered that attending a weekly accountability group was one of the best ways to grow spiritually.

Did you know that the founder of the Methodist faith, John Wesley, encouraged his followers to attend a weekly accountability group called a class meeting? He would ask the attendees, “How is it with your soul?” In addition, he would have them ask and answer searching questions to determine the health of their spirituality.

So get accountable this year! Find an accountability group, or start your own. May God bless you as you grow in your spirituality!

Vice-President

by Jean Bonney, Vice-President

At the Annual Gathering, we had a Mission Trivia Quiz on information that could be found on the bulletin board displays. Some of you have been asking for the answers. Following are the questions and answers:

- 1) Q. What is the total amount of World Thank Offering?
A. \$13.42
- 2) Q. How many women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime?
A. 1 in 4, or 25%
- 3) Q. What year were our districts last realigned and renamed?
A. 1998
- 4) Q. What two changes will there be for Mission U in 2015?
A. The date is changed to July 20-23 for the Four Day School and July 25 for the Overview Day. Also, the Spiritual Growth study name has been changed to "Happiness."
- 5) Q. What amount of money did the Wisconsin Conference commit to raise this year for Imagine No Malaria?
A. One million dollars (\$1,000,000)
- 6) Q. Name the 11 conference in our North Central Jurisdiction.
A. Dakotas; Wisconsin; Detroit; Minnesota; Iowa; West Michigan; West Ohio; East Ohio; Northern Illinois; Illinois Great Rivers; Indiana
- 7) Q. What does SIFAT stand for?
A. Servants in Faith and Technology
- 8) Q. Which district in the Wisconsin Conference had the most United Methodist Women officers in 2013?
A. Capital District
- 9) Q. What is the name of the author of the booklet with children's faces on it?
A. Rachel Gabler
- 10) Q. What is the name of the organization with the helicopter?
A. Mercy Air

11x15 Blueprint for Ending Mass Incarceration in Wisconsin

by Ruby Dow, Mission Coordinator for Social Action

Wisconsin spends more than \$1.2 billion per year on the Department of Corrections. A few years ago, the state allocated more taxpayer money to its prison budget than to the entire University of Wisconsin system.

The population of Wisconsin and Minnesota is approximately the same, but Wisconsin incarcerates more than double the number of individuals incarcerated in Minnesota. The 11x15 goal is to decrease the Wisconsin prison population to 11,000 by the end of 2015.

Below are recommendations that will help accomplish this goal:

- Fully funding the state's Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) fund. This would keep 3,000 people per year out of the state's prisons and more than 27,000 from ever going to jail.
- Wisconsin has nearly 3,000 in its prisons who have

long been eligible for parole. Many of these individuals have been evaluated as being of minimal risk to society. They have completed every required rehabilitative program.

- Nearly 5,000 people return to prison every year. About 4,000 of them have not committed a new crime but are being "revoked" back to prison for violation of a rule of supervision or parole. Other states have found quality, community-based alternatives to revocation, and many have placed strict limits on the length of time that a person can be incarcerated for rules violation.

For the 11x15 Blueprint and the PowerPoint presentation from the 12/10/14 press conference, go to: <http://prayforjusticeinwi.org>

Mabel Heil Scholarships

The Mabel Heil Scholarships are a result of funds from the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a woman from Cuba City, Wisconsin. The first scholarships were first granted in 1981. Since then more than 240 women have received help with their education.

Instructions:

1. Be a female member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women.
2. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what ways do I consider myself a worthy student?"
3. Send a completed application form to the contact person by May 1 for the Fall semester or October 1 for the Spring semester.
4. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by the president of the local United Methodist Women or the pastor of the church.
5. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative.

Rules:

1. Any member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women working to improve her education may apply.
2. Have all letters written (preferably typed) on one side of an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of white paper using black ink.
3. All applications are photocopied for the committee members.
4. Scholarships are awarded one semester at a time. To be considered again DURING a one-year period, you must send a letter asking to be considered. AFTER one year, you will need to fill out another form and secure new recommendations.
5. If in any given year there is an increase of applications, these priorities will be followed: Women responsible for others will be favored; Women preparing to return to the employment field will be favored.
6. The schedule is: **First semester:** Apply by May 1, notify by June 1, check given by August 15.
Second semester: Apply by October 1, notify by November 1, check given by December 1.
7. Application and two letters of recommendation must be postmarked no later than May 1 and October 1 to be considered.

Contact person: Helen Robinson, N2101 Cleghorn Rd, Waupaca WI 54981

715-258-0973 pottshe@yahoo.com

Catch the Vision

Wisconsin Conference

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Judy Vasby

Milk Moola

Our former Conference President, Judy Vasby, was consecrated as a deaconess in 2014. She is Coordinator of Caring Ministries for Willerup United Methodist Church in Cambridge, WI, and is available to answer questions or do programs for local units or circles.

In addition, Judy coordinates the collection of Milk Moola contributions, which will now go to Harbor House Crisis Shelters in Superior, WI, a Health and Welfare Ministry of the Wisconsin United Methodist Church.

Harbor House provides emergency shelter for women and children along with other assistance. Reverend Barbara Certa Werner is the director.

Judy's address is :

Judy Vasby
281 Neli Ct., Deerfield WI 53531
Cell phone: 608-576-0173
email: vasby.umw@gmail.com



Mission Action Day

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Peace United Methodist Church
2300 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Homelessness

- Chris Lashock, Client Services Coordinator for Homeless Connections will speak on the face of homelessness, who are the homeless, and homeless families with children

Ubuntu Service Project

- Assemble travel courier packs for Homeless Connections.
- Attendees are encouraged to donate an item for Homeless Connections
- Recommended donations are: canned goods- vegetables, fruits, soups; granola bars; infant socks- 0-24 months; body wash; travel soap dishes, women's and men's underwear and socks. For additional items on the wish list go to: <http://homelessconnections.net/donating-homeless-connections/>

Registration: 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. • Sending forth: 2:30 p.m.

Registration is transferrable, not refundable.

2015 MISSION ACTION DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline for Registration: Friday, March 20, 2015- \$12 registration fee

Late registration-\$15- March 21-28, after March 28- fee remains \$15 lunch on your own

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP Code _____

District _____ Church _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Child Care needed for _____ child(ren), Age(s) _____ (I also understand that I am responsible for providing a sack lunch for each child or paying the registration fee of \$12.00 for each child in order to cover their lunch.)

Dietary or other considerations _____

Send form and registration fee to:

Shirley Carpenter, 2711 North Biron Drive, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54484-8804

Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Conference UMW

Driving Directions to Peace UMC, Kaukauna

For Mission Action Day, Saturday, April 11, 2015

- **FROM STEVENS POINT/WAUSAU AREA (NORTHWEST):** Take 45/10 east. Continue on 441 to the County Road Oo/Northland Ave. exit. Take County Road Oo east (right). Turn right onto Rose Hill Road. Left onto E Main Street. Right onto Hayes Street. Left onto E Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the left.
- **FROM MADISON AREA (SOUTHWEST):** Take 151 north to Hwy 41 north. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- **FROM MILWAUKEE AREA (SOUTH):** Take Hwy 41 north. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- **FROM GREEN BAY AREA (NORTH):** Take Hwy 41 south. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- **FROM LA CROSSE AREA (WEST):** Take 90 east to WI Hwy 21 east. Take Hwy 21 east (toward Oshkosh) to Hwy 41. Take Hwy 41 north to 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.

For precise directions and map, go to <https://maps.google.com> and type in 2300 E. Wisconsin Ave., Kaukauna, WI 54130 or visit www.peaceunitedmethodist.com.

2015 CONFERENCE OFFICERS

President	Laura Pfeffer	W10132 Koltos Rd Lodi WI 53555	608-592-2228 pfeffer.umw@gmail.com
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Social Action	Ruby Dow	W3308 49 th St Mauston WI 53948	608-847-2398 remdow@ymail.com
Education and Interpretation	Kay Putnam	215 Water St Apt 205 Lodi WI 53555	608-592-2294 no email
Communications Coordinator	Ellen Eastman	215 N Lafayette St Shawano WI 54166	715-526-5030 eae@frontier.com
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Committee on Nominations	Bernice Kohlman	1537 Summit Dr Wausau WI 54401	715-675-3165
Committee on Nominations	Julie Miehe	155 Shato Lane Monona WI 53716	608-221-3061 julie.miehe9@gmail.com
Committee on Nominations	Shirley Jackson	4257 W Bradley Rd #117 Brown Deer WI 53223	414-365-39-2
Hmong Language Coordinator	Kady Herr-Yang	1809 W Ramsey Ave Milwaukee WI 53221-5037	414-817-8120 embracelanguageservice@gmail.com
Hispanic Language Coordinator	Martha Boyer	4638 County Road Z Dodgeville WI 53533-8924	608-935-5790 marta@mhtc.net
Native American Coordinator	Billie LaBumbard	W6578 Lone Rand Rd Spooner WI 54801	715-635-7045 missionbillie@gmail.com
Vice-President North Central Jurisdiction	Carol Holt Lahey	721 N Buchanan St Green Bay WI 54303	920-393-4554 carollahey421@gmail.com
Program Advisory Group Member	Chu Vang	2029 S 15 th St Milwaukee WI 53204	414-248-3251 vangex1@milwaukee.k12.wi.us
Young Women's Coordinator	Julia Mayeshiba	1702 Lynndale Rd Madison WI 53711-3324	608-228-2730 jmayeshibaa@yahoo.com
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Historian			
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**Wisconsin Conference
United Methodist Women**

215 N. Lafayette St., Shawano WI 54166-2133

Address Service Requested



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.

Save these dates—

Mission Action Day

Saturday, April 11, 2015
Peace UMC, Kaukauna WI

Mission u

July 20-23 - 4 day School
July 24 - Overview Day
Westwood Conference Center
Wausau WI

Conference Annual Gathering

October 23-24
Eau Claire Lake Street UMC
Eau Claire WI