

Mission Matters

February 2017

Newsletter of
the South West
District United
Methodist
Women

President's Message—Comments from Carol

Dear UMW Sisters,

I marvel at the way young children remind about things of importance such as joy, sharing, laughter, and just plain playfulness. A story I heard a few weeks ago illustrates my point.

A grandfather was in the hospital recovering from a serious illness and surgery. His grandson, a kindergartner, was at home, going from room to room as if searching for something. His father asked him, "What are you looking for?" Ryan replied,



"I'm looking for something for Papa," his special name for his grandfather. In time, Ryan found what he was looking for and

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Spiritual Growth—Michele Hopp

Be Still

Many of you are weathering storms. Some of you are battling illness. Some of you have a sick spouse or

family member. Some of you have lost a loved one. Some of you are having financial difficulties. Some of you are hav-

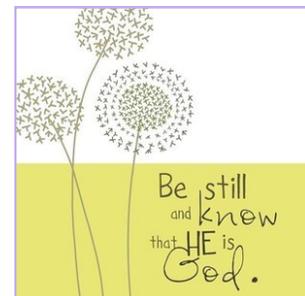
ing relationship problems.

Did you know that as we go through life's storms, God wants us to have peace?

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President's Message (cont.)

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asked his parents to take him to the hospital to see Papa. When Ryan and his parents arrived at the hospital, the grandfather was asleep. But, when Papa opened eyes, he saw his son, his daughter-in-law and Ryan with a gift for him. It was a favorite teddy bear to help Papa feel better and comfort him.

What an amazing story for us to remember. Not many weeks ago, we celebrated the birth of one who promises to bring us comfort in times of stress, illness and as we meet daily challenges. There are many wonderful messianic prophecies in the Old Testament that point to the coming of the Messiah and the comfort and compassion he will bring. Jesus, himself, invites us to come to him when we are weary and burdened, and he will give us rest. He encourages us to take his yoke and learn of him. He is gentle and will give us rest for our souls.

You hear this scripture quoted often. The composer, Handel, gave it poetic and musical expression as he penned the words and music of the *Messiah*. If you are familiar with that "masterpiece," you will recall the wonderful contralto aria, "HE Shall Lead His Flock Like a Shepherd," followed by the wonderful soprano solo, "Come Unto Me All Ye That Labor, and Ye Shall Find Rest Unto Your Souls." This gives way to the chorus version of "His Yoke Is Easy." I've sung the *Messiah* many times, and these passages still lift my spirit to joy.

Our District is facing some difficult times because we are left without a treasurer, a secretary, a Communications Coordinator



and a Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator. As president, I've spent many stressful hours trying to contemplate what this means for South West District. Wonderful team members give of their time to cover the vacancies, but that is not the answer. It impacts our mission. This isn't simply the job of the Nominating Committee, but all of us must work together to find people within our units who have the skills to do the task and are looking for ways to serve. If you or someone in your unit meets the criteria, please let us know. Being a member of the Team is a rewarding and learning experience. It is busy, yes. But, it is also gives a real sense of meaning to the purpose and the mission of United Methodist Women.

Peace to you as Jesus brings comfort and rest to your soul,

Carol

Carol M. Lange, SW District President



Mission Action Day

Saturday, April 1, 2017

Columbus United Methodist Church
 222 S. Dickason Blvd.
 Columbus, WI 53925

Homelessness

- Kathy Metzenbauer, Juneau Co. Extension, Sea of Change- Juneau County Support, Education, and Advocacy
- Bruce Wallbaum, Occupy Madison- tiny homes
- Karen Andro, Director of Outreach Ministries, First United Methodist Church- Madison

Donations for afternoon activity to support First UMC's Outreach ministries for the homeless
 1. material for tie blankets (twin size) 2. items for foot care bags: pair ankle socks (male or female), travel size talcum powder, travel size lotion, toe nail clippers

Registration: 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | Sending forth: 2:30 p.m.
 Registration is transferrable, not refundable.

2017 MISSION ACTION DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline for Registration: Friday, March 10, 2017- \$12 registration fee

Late registration-\$15- March 11-17, after March 17- 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 54494-8804

Make checks payable to: **Wisconsin Conference UMW**

Driving Directions to Columbus UMC, Columbus

For Mission Action Day, Saturday, April 2, 2016

- FROM STEVENS POINT/WAUSAU AREA (NORTHWEST): Take 39/51 south to Hwy 16 east to Columbus. Hwy 16/60 is James St. Turn right on Dickason. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.
- FROM MADISON AREA (SOUTHWEST): Take 151 north to Hwy 16 east. Hwy 16/60 is James St. Turn right on Dickason Blvd. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.
- FROM MILWAUKEE AREA (SOUTH): Take Hwy 41 north to Hwy. 60 west Hwy 60 to Columbus. Hwy. 60/16 is James St. Turn left on Dickason Blvd. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.
- FROM GREEN BAY AREA (NORTH): Take Hwy 41 south to Hwy 151. Hwy 151 to Columbus. Take Hwy 16 east. Hwy 16/60 is James St. Turn right on Dickason Blvd. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.
- FROM LA CROSSE AREA (WEST): Take 90 east to Hwy 60 east. Hwy 60 to Columbus. Hwy 60/16 becomes James St. in Columbus. Turn right on Dickason Blvd. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.

Hwy 16/60 connects to Dickason Blvd. at corner where Library /City Hall & F & M Bank is located

For precise directions and map, go to <https://maps.google.com> and type in 222 S. Dickason Blvd., Columbus, WI or

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/United+Methodist+Church/@43.3383654,-89.0176549,17z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0xcbd73a5faa8d36a0>

visit <http://www.cbusumc.com>

If there is not a funeral, individuals may park in the funeral home parking lot across the street from Columbus UMC.

South West District Calendar 2017

April 1—Conference Mission Action Day, Columbus UMC
 April 29—District Spiritual Growth Retreat, Madison: Wellspring UMC
 July 24-27—Mission u Four Day School, Mead Hotel Wisconsin Rapids
 July 28th—Mission u Overview Day, Mead Hotel Wisconsin Rapids
 September 23rd—District Celebration/Annual Gathering, Fennimore UMC
 October 20-21st—Conference Annual Gathering, Waukesha: First UMC
 November 11th—District Day of Enrichment, Portage UMC

Please consider joining our District Team. We invite any interested member of UMW to fill out this form and return it to: Kay Putman 215 Water Street, Apt. 205 Lodi, WI 53555. If you have questions, please call Kay at 608-592-2294.



South West District UMW POTENTIAL LEADER'S INFORMATION FORM

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|---------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Name: | | | | | | | |
| Address: | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Phone Home: | | | | Phone Mobile: | | | |
| Email: | | | | Local Unit: | | | |
| Age: | 20's | 30's | 40's | 50's | 60's | 70's | 80's + |
| Race/ Ethnicity: | | | | Employed: | Yes | No | |
| Languages Spoken: | | | | | | | |
| Skills, job experience: | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| UMW Offices | | | | Date(s) of Service | | | |
| Local | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| District | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Conference | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Jurisdiction/National | | | | | | | |
| Additional experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

(Turn Page Over)

Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization? _____

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for? (Circle Yes or No)

Full day (Yes No) Weekend (Yes No) Extended Time (e.g. 5 days) (Yes No)

Are you available year round? (Yes No)

What Skills/interests might you bring to the team? (Check all that apply)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Secretarial | Recruiting members | Publicity |
| Community Involvement | Social Issues | Leading Workshops |
| Computer | Creativity | Newsletters |
| Accounting/bookkeeping | Recording Minutes | Retreats |
| Organization of details | Public Policy | Music |
| Nominations | Public Relations | Youth |
| Program Planning | Inclusiveness/Pluralism | Children |
| Administration | Community Building | Photography/Videography |
| Website Design/ Managing | Communications/social media/networking | Other: |

Which office(s) on the District Leadership Team would you most like to hold if given the opportunity to serve? (Check all that apply)

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President | Secretary |
| Vice-President | Treasurer |
| Spiritual Growth | Social Action |
| Education and Interpretation | Membership Nurture and Outreach |
| Program Resources | Communications |
| Chair of Nominations | Nominations committee member |
| Limitless (Youth) Representative | Northcott Representative |

Why are you interested in this position? What qualifications do you feel you have for this choice?

___ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in _____ (year).

Social Action—Charlene Mingst

Greetings from Dodgeville!!

As I write this article I am seeing a most welcome stream of sunshine coming through my windows!! It seemed that the month of January was filled with way too many cloudy and gloomy days—hopefully the sunshine that we are enjoying today will stay with us throughout February and into the Spring. However, I have to admit that the weather hasn't been the only factor affecting my mood in recent weeks. As I have been reading the newspapers and watching the news reports lately I have to admit that I am concerned for our nation, and can only hope and pray that all that is good and decent in America will prevail. I do know that as United Methodist Women we can make a difference if we remember to live out the statements included in our Purpose.

With that in mind I would like to recommend that you go to the UMW website—www.unitedmethodistwomen.org. You will find the “Latest News and Resources” in the middle of the page where you can scroll through to find the article “United Methodist Women CEO Joins Interfaith Opposition to Refugee Ban Based on Religion, Nationality”. Our CEO, Harriett Olson begins her statement with “United Methodist Women takes to heart Jesus’ commandment to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Throughout our 150-year history we have carried this out by extending God’s love to women, men, youth and children around the world, including immigrants and refugees.” Please take a few minutes to read her entire statement and perhaps, print it out for others to read. As you scroll through you will also see articles that feature UMW members speaking out on the issues of Climate Justice and Human Trafficking and other concerns directly affecting women, youth, children, and families across the U.S. and be-



Photo by Paul Jeffrey

yond our borders.

I would also like to call your attention to the February 2017 issue of our Response magazine which includes several articles on the theme “Inclusive Communities” that could be used to keep ourselves, our units, and our congregations, informed and inspired by the important work of our organization.

I hope you will consider attending the Conference Mission Action Day to be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Columbus UMC. The theme is “Homelessness” and the program will focus on how communities are addressing this issue that seems to be getting more prevalent everywhere, and on how faith communities are involved. The registration deadline is March 10. You can find more information and the registration form on another page of this newsletter or on the Wisconsin UMW website:

www.wisconsinumw.org.

Hope to see you in Columbus!!
Submitted by Charlene Mingst
622 W. Merrimac St.
Dodgeville, WI 53533
[Email—jcmingst@mhtc.net](mailto:jcmingst@mhtc.net)

Spiritual Growth (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

But how is this possible?

God gives us the answer in Psalm 46:10. He says, “Be still, and know that I am God.”

In other words, withdraw from the world, be quiet, tell God what you need, and trust God to take care of you.

Notice that God doesn't say, “If you find some spare time, be still and know that I am God” or “You might want to think about being still and knowing that I am God.” Instead he commands us to, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Be quiet, trust in me, I'll take care of you.

Back in Bible times, God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. As slaves, they were treated cruelly. When the Egyptian leader, Pharaoh, finally released them, they thought that the worst was behind them.

But while on the road to freedom, the Israelites learned that Pharaoh had changed his mind. He didn't want to let them go. He wanted to kill them instead. Pharaoh and his army chased after them by chariot. The Israelites had gotten as far as the Red Sea, but they had no way to cross it. They were trapped. Pharaoh and his army were

behind them. The Red Sea was in front of them. They were “between the devil and the deep blue sea.” They were doomed to die one way or another.

They pleaded with God to help them. And do you know what God told them to do?

In Exodus 14:14, we read God's words to the Israelites. He said, “The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Be quiet, trust in me, I'll take care of you. I will fight for you.

And then God parted the Red Sea. The Israelites traveled safely across. Pharaoh and his army perished as God allowed the sea to flow back as they crossed.

Isn't this a great example of how God cares for his people?

The next time you are in the middle of one of life's storms, try dealing with it God's way – be still and know that He is God. And in the quiet, you will learn to lean on God and trust him, and you will experience peace.

By Michele Hopp, Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth



What is
GOD
 CALLING
YOU
 to do?

Take a day to be still!
*Pray, study the Bible,
 sing, enjoy fellowship &
 consider God's special
 plans for you.*

**SOUTH WEST DISTRICT
 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT**

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Wellspring United Methodist Church

5702 South Hill Dr, Madison, WI 53705

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Retreat begins at 9:00 a.m.

Lunch will be served. Cost: \$10.00

Registration Form

Deadline: April 22, 2017

Send form and \$10.00 (make checks out to South West District UMW) to:

Michele Hopp

641 Lake Wisconsin Dr

Merrimac, WI 53561

Phone: 608-370-4216

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Church/UMW Unit _____

Child care needed for _____ child(ren), Age(s) _____
 (I understand that I am responsible for providing a sack lunch for each child.)

**South West District
United Methodist Women**

W10132 Koltes Rd
Lodi, WI 53555



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**Education and Interpretation—Eileen
Bennett**

Mission Today

Thank you to all the units who turned in their Mission Today forms. Most units commented that they found the criteria to be very helpful in planning 2017. Hopefully, we can all set a goal to add at least one new task every year. There are great resources we can all use as we plan activities for our units on the UMW website: <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>, and in **response** Magazine.

Also check out UMW on Facebook and Twitter!

If you need any additional information, or a copy of the Mission Today form, please feel free to contact me. My email is: bennettpesl@charter.net, and my phone number is (920) 623-4659.

“Tote Bags and T Shirts” will be available for purchase at the South West Spiritual Growth Retreat, ALL proceeds going toward those attending the *Seminar Mission Trip* this fall!

