

**Winn-D**  
**Winnebago District Newsletter**  
**September**  
**Winnebago Dist Editor -Andrea Willetts [Kwilletts@new.rr.com](mailto:Kwilletts@new.rr.com)**  
**920-738-9774**

*Fall Calendar: Things to look forward to in the district.*

*October 21-22, 2011 Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering Black River Falls United Methodist Church*

*November 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 Winnebago District Gathering Ripon United Methodist Church*

*- see form attached for the District Gathering registration*

**2012 Officers Winnebago District**

President-(2012) Mary Trettin W 422 Cnty Rd. CE Kaukauna WI 54130 920-766-5077 [mftrettin@baycomwi.com](mailto:mftrettin@baycomwi.com)

Vice President-(2013) Gwen Gibson 4524 N Clayhill Drive Appleton WI 54913 920-954-8923 [gwengbson@yahoo.com](mailto:gwengbson@yahoo.com)

Secretary- (2012) Chris Worrall 730 Woodside Ave Ripon WI 54971 920-748-7858 [worralltca@charter.net](mailto:worralltca@charter.net)

Treasurer- (2013) Bev Kimble 105 Queens Way Fond du Lac WI 54935 920-933-2771

Secretary of Program Resources- (2013) Valorie Caldwell 381 Rose Ave Fond du Lac WI 54935 920-238-9826  
[valorie.caldwell@yahoo.com](mailto:valorie.caldwell@yahoo.com)

Communications Coordinator- (2012) Andrea Willetts 1501 S Weimar Street Appleton WI 54915-920-738-9774  
[Kwilletts@new.rr.com](mailto:Kwilletts@new.rr.com)

Chair- Nominations Committee (2013) Alma Grace 319 Doty Street Fond du Lac WI 53935 920-922-6557

Committee on Nominations-

Betty Merington (2013) 1010 E Murdock #1 Oshkosh WI 54901 920-426-1605 [bmerington@yahoo.com](mailto:bmerington@yahoo.com)

Hazel Christopher (2013) 317 Parkview Lane Kimberly WI 54136 920-731-7260 [hazelc228@aol.com](mailto:hazelc228@aol.com)

Spiritual Growth- (2103) Rita Wuyts 1017 Augustine Street Kaukauna WI 54130 920-766-2818 [FoxyG-Ma@new.rr.com](mailto:FoxyG-Ma@new.rr.com)

Educations & Interpretation-(2013) Betty Eichstedt 558 Hope Ave Ripon WI 54971 920-748-2755

Membership Nurture and Outreach (2013) Rachel Benton 1731 White Swan Drive Oshkosh WI 54901 920-231-7724  
[bentonr@uwosh.edu](mailto:bentonr@uwosh.edu)

Social Action(2013) Sharon Kardoskee 2915 S Galdys Street Appleton WI 54915 920-739-1142

District Superintendent- Rev. Gordon Lind 1500 N Cassaloma Drive Suite 409 Appleton WI 54913 920-991-0548  
[glind@wsiconsinumc.org](mailto:glind@wsiconsinumc.org)

## **Note from the President- Mary Trettin**



JUST \$1 A MONTH!!!

You're probably thinking there isn't much anyone can do with just \$1.00 a month? But, oh, how wrong you would be. Just think! If every United Methodist Woman in the Winnebago District gave this small amount of money, we could do a lot of things.

Hmong House of Good News in Milwaukee, which was chartered by the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women, is in need of funds in order to operate. They need money for rent and utilities, for food and activities, and for the salaries of the cook and program director. There is also the cost of providing transportation to and from the site. The participants of the program are basically elderly women and a few men who live with family members who are working during the day, and thus, cannot drive their parents to and from Hmong House. Others live alone and do not have the language skills to take public transportation nor the financial means to pay for taxi rides. There is a Transit Plus system which costs \$3.25 each way.

So the need is there and that is where your \$1.00 a month comes in. If each United Methodist Woman in Winnebago District could give \$1.00 a month, just \$12.00 a year, this would be a tremendous boost to this program. Could your unit commit to a certain amount every month that they could send in? No matter how big or how small your unit may be, it can contribute something.

Even though Hmong House was begun by United Methodist Women, the entire church is welcome to support this project. Northcott Neighborhood House was begun by United Methodist Women and that has celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year.

So let's pitch in and get this new venture off to a good start. These monies can be sent directly to Hmong House of Good News, c/o Treasurer Patricia H. Ruppe, 2427 Sunrise Road Racine, WI 53402.

Mary Trettin, President of Winnebago District

## **Vice President- Gwen Gibson**

I look forward each year to attending the SOCM (School of Christian Mission). Each year we are offered studies that deepen our faith, and studies that challenge us to act out our faith values. The Plenaries help us to connect to studies and help us to hear God's call.

The Plenaries this summer encouraged us to think about and share our personal histories and then how our histories affect ones worldview and relationship to others. We are aware that Individuals and communities are struggling with the issue of migration. The "Migration Story" includes those who migrated to the United States many years ago and those who have recently migrated. As Christians and United Methodist Women, our call is to treat others as we would want to be treated. To know that we are made in God's image, is to see others through God's eyes.

To help move us to a more spiritual and faithful discernment, several questions were posed for reflection. How can we build relationships honoring each other? How can we hear the stories of others? How can we learn more about those who have come to live in your community? How can we be open to their directions, their directions for change? What within ourselves, do we need to put aside or create in order to do this?

These reflection questions will help us have conversations, share our stories, hear others stories and act on our worldviews in our churches and communities.

GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL PEOPLE AND ALL ARE GOD'S CHILDREN IN ONE FAMILY—focus statement from "Because We Believe", Charter For Racial Justice

Gwen Gibson, Vice President

## ***Spiritual Growth- Rita Wuyts***



### **GOD NOTICES WHAT OTHERS OVERLOOK**

By Rita Wuyts, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

We read in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 how each person is a part of the body of Christ. Just like the organs of our body, though all have different functions, they make up one whole body. No one is less important than the other. Each has a function in the church. Sometimes though, we go through times of feeling unappreciated for what we are doing for the Lord. There may be times when we feel that we aren't accomplishing as much as we would like, at the level we would like to be at, and we feel that we go unnoticed.

These times can cause us much frustration and dismay. It's hard sometimes when we see an area where we could be used, but fail to be used there. It's hard to get others interested in what we can do, for not everyone shares our enthusiasm.

How do we handle times like these? I know from personal experience, that I don't handle it as well as what I should. But we need to remind ourselves of the fact that God has planted within us this desire to be used, and He has called us and desires to use us in His kingdom. It may not be our time yet. It just might be a time where God is working in us - helping us to develop more of a Christ-like character. I know it's hard to be in this place. But don't be dismayed. God notices you, and will cause others to do as well, in His time. What God has birthed in you, He will bring it to pass - one day!

For as in one physical body we have many parts (organs, members) and all of these parts do not have the same function or use, so we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another].

## ***Secretary- Chris Worrall***

### ***A note from the Secretary***



Fall is nearly here. All over the Winnebago District unit members are gearing up for the next year's activities and growth events. Along with these events comes the **Election of Officers** for each of your units.

Winnebago Unit Secretaries you will be receiving the necessary forms to be filled out and returned so that this information can be filed at the conference level. It is important to know who is doing what at each church. Thank you for your cooperation and promptness on this matter

Please complete the form and return it to:

Chris Worrall, Winnebago District Secretary

730 Woodside Ave

Ripon, WI 54971

Or email the information to:

[wooralltca@charter.net](mailto:wooralltca@charter.net)

## ***Program Resource- Rachel Benton***

### **READ! REFLECT! RESTORE! REACT! READ! REFLECT! RESTORE! REACT!**

Great News! Valerie Caldwell has agreed to be installed as the new Winnebago District Secretary of Program Resources. You will have the opportunity to welcome her at our District Annual Gathering on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> @ Immanuel UMC in Ripon. Please plan to attend! We will have time for our training and sharing get-together in the afternoon. I received much new information from the Conference SPR Arlene Trull at our meeting at SOCM this summer. I'll plan to make a lot of that available to you since it lists many resources and references for program etc.

So that you can get your 'readers' started in the 2011-2012 Reading Programs, there are a few changes that you will need to share.

#### ***Plan I: 5 books each year***

\*One book from each category (Education for Mission - EFM, Leadership Development – LD, Nurturing for Community – NFC, Social Action - SA, and Spiritual Growth – SG)

\*Selections from the 2008-2012 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles)

\*Regular reading of **response** magazine

#### ***Plan II: 10 books each year***

\*Two books from each category: EFM, LD, NFC, SA and SG

\*Selections from the 2008-2012 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles)

\*Regular reading of **response** and **New World Outlook** magazines.

#### ***Plan III: 15 books each year***

\* Two books from each category

\* Plus 5 additional books from any category

\* Selections from 2008-2012 Reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles)

\* Regular reading from **response** and **New World Outlook** magazines

#### ***Plan IV – 20 books each year***

\* Same guidelines as in Plan III except an additional 5 books from any category

I hope to have the new 2012 catalogs from the Mission Resource Center to distribute and a list of and the new books that are included in the 2012 listings. You will probably want to concentrate on the leadership category in your new selections or check for their availability at your local library. Remember that I can only order 2 copies of each book. I will probably order the 2011 Leadership selections also in case you didn't purchase books of that category last year.

I enjoyed reading *Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall & Denver Moore 2011 NC

#### **ONLINE Connections:**

Staying Connected with International UMW: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/news/action-alerts>

And <http://www.umwonline.net>

Mission Resource Center: [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org) or  
1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, TX 75247-33919 or by telephone 1-800-305-9857  
Looking forward to seeing you at Ripon! Rachel Benton (920) 231-7724: bentonr@uwosh.edu

## ***Committee on Nominations***

***Hazel Christopher & Betty Merington***



This has been a busy year, there have been only two persons on the Committee on Nominations. However, we have been successful in filling our slate of officers with the exception of members of the Committee on Nominations. We would like to add at least two persons, preferably, three to this committee. Please contact either of us, Betty or Hazel, giving us permission to place your name on our slate of officers which will be presented at our District Annual Gathering on November 5.

There will be a Potential Leaders Information Form at our district meeting that we would like for you to fill out with your interests as there will continue to be opportunities for service on our District team.

### ***Names to be presented:***

Vice President	Gwen Gibson	Second Term	2012-2013
Spiritual Growth	Rita Wuyts	Second Term	2012-2013
Betty Eichstedt	Education and Interpretation		First Term 2012-2013
Sharon Kardoskee	Social Action		First Term 2012-2013
Rachel Benton	Membership Nurture and Outreach		First Term 2012-2013
Beverly Kimble	Treasurer		First Term 2012-2013
Valorie Caldwell	Secretary of Program Resources		First Term 2012-2013
Alma Grace	Chairperson Committee on Nominations		Term 2012-2013

Betty Merington  
[bmerington@yahoo.com](mailto:bmerington@yahoo.com)  
920-426-1605

Hazel Christopher  
[HazelC228@aol.com](mailto:HazelC228@aol.com)  
920-731-7260

## ***Treasurers Report- Andrea Willetts***

Well ladies, this is my last note as you're acting Treasurer. We have a volunteer ready to run with the position for 2012 and upon election of officers in November we will have a new Treasurer. I am excited about the good hands you will be in and I know that you will be extremely supportive to the change of duties as well as patient with her as you were with me as she nestles into her new role.

Please continue to do the good work that you do in your Units and in your community and beyond. I am so proud to have served you in this capacity for the past 5 years and I will continue on as the Communications Coordinator for my term. Please make sure all your monies for 2011 are to me by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you again for a great 5 years!

## **Education & Interpretation**



## **Social Action**

## **Alma Grace**

### **DO Not Judge!**

Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned... Luke 6:37  
As I wrote this article in 1998, Matthew Shepard had just died after a brutal attack. A crime caused by hate.

Who was Matthew and why could anyone hate him so much? Matthew was a young Wyoming college student and yes, he was gay. What is so sad to me is that people who called themselves Christians used the Bible as a tool of hate and found verses to condone that hatred.

The Bible seldom mentions same-sex part partnering. Many other behaviors are mentioned much more often. We do not get incensed over them. Jesus never once mentioned homosexuality as a concern. When Jesus did condemn human behavior, it was likely to be self-righteousness and arrogance. He clearly wished the people to leave the business of judging to God!

In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus says, "... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind..." and a second is like it, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus did not put qualifications or limitations on that commandment. He did not say that we should love our neighbor, but only if he is a white, Protestant straight male; or love her, but only if she is a black Catholic straight woman. We are to love **all** our neighbors. The time has come to study the issue with an open mind and an open heart. Most of us have persons near and dear to us who are lesbian or gay and we may not even know it!!!

Our Social Principles has a paragraph called, "Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation." It says, "Certain basic rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting these rights and liberties for all persons; regardless of sexual orientation... we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation."

A book called *Cleaning Closets: A Matthew Story* by Beverly Cole of Salina, KS was on the Reading Program in 1998. Chapter 16 in *Cleaning Closets* is called "Extinguishing the Light." It tells of a man named Fred Phelps, known as the minister of Hate, and his followers. The purpose of his gatherings is to spread the message of *hell and damnation* for homosexuals. Even young children carry signs that say such things as, "God Hates Fags" and "Gays Are Going to Hell." How can anyone who claims to be a Christian teach such hatred to children? When I was in Salina, KS in May of 1998 visiting my family, the Reverend Phelps and his group came to town. They were there to picket the Kansas United Methodist Annual Conference. Most of the things they said were basically so hateful as to be frightening. They even picketed at funereal services for gay people. They were at the funereal of Matthew Shepard spreading their hatred saying that he deserved to die because he was gay. They also appeared at funerals for service members saying they died because the United States condones homosexuality.

This is my final article as a member of the Winnebago District team of UMW. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as Mission Coordinator of Education & Interpretation and as the interim Coordinator for Social Action.

Please continue to pray-study-act! My prayer is that UMW will truly be a creative supportive fellowship. The four mission areas – Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Education & Interpretation, and Membership Nurture & Outreach – are parts of a greater whole. We need to work together to accomplish our "purpose."

Alma Grace

*Our 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 a 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.*

**Winnebago District  
Annual Gathering of  
United Methodist Women  
November 5<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Ripon Immanuel United Methodist Church**

401 West Fond du Lac Street

Ripon, Wisconsin (Hwy 23)

Handicap accessible

**Registration begins at 8:30**

**Lunch served 11:30**

**We invite you, to share the day with us as we journey through the message of:**



***“The Value of Life”***

Our Keynote Speaker

Lindee Kimball; Director of the Solutions Center in Fond du Lac, WI

*Solutions Center Mission*

To restore hope to those oppressed by poverty and violence - through empowerment, confidential supportive services, and a safe haven.

*A collection of canned goods and paper products will be divided between the Ripon local food pantry and the Solutions Center in Fond du Lac. Please bring donated items to share with those less fortunate.*

Please mail this portion along with your check for \$10.00 payable to **Winnebago District UMW**. Deadline for registration is October 24

Mail to:

Andrea Willetts -1501 S Weimar Street Appleton WI 54915

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Name\_\_\_\_\_

Current role in your unit: Officer-(which position) \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address for newsletter mailings\_\_\_\_\_

Church\_\_\_\_\_

Food Concerns\_\_\_\_\_

Child Care if needed- Age/Ages\_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide a sack lunch for each child brought.**

**Any questions- [Kwilletts@new.rr.com](mailto:Kwilletts@new.rr.com) or 920-738-9774**

During our memorial service we will share out loud the names of our UMW sisters that have gone before us. If you are unable to attend the gathering please share the name/names of those you would like us to honor in memory for you.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

### ***Why come?***

The Winnebago District Gathering UMW and the Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering UMW are two great opportunities for you in so many ways. First off you get to see familiar faces and also meet someone new. Second there is a wealth of information that is provided for you to share with your units as well as your church & community. And the most important reason is that as sisters it is important to come together to worship and sing praises to the one that makes all things possible.

Registration for the Annual Gathering can be found online at Wisconsin Conference UMW.

At the Winnebago District Gathering you will have at a smaller scale the same opportunities and for those of you that do not hold a position in your unit we will have a **101 What is UMW** led by Stacy Ganzer. So you see there are many ways for you to get involved, be informed and take action in the world you live in. I look forward to seeing you all in October and November.