



THE TEXAS UNITED METHODIST WOMAN

October 2009

Texas Conference United Methodist Woman

Volume 23 Number 2

Radical Hospitality: Open the Doors of My Heart

District Officers' Training
January 9, 2010
Lakeview
9:00-9:45AM Registration
2:00 Training Ends

Theme Scripture: "Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it!"

Hebrews 13:1,2 *The Message*

Challenge: Think about specific ways you can reach out to women in your local congregation to participate in United Methodist Women. Come and share your ideas at training

Passionate Worship: The Beginning of Service

Spring Celebration
A Spiritual Growth Retreat
March 6, 2010
Lakeview

Bishop Janice Huie, Keynote Speaker

Theme Scripture: ¹⁾"Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy house of worship, praise him under the open skies; ⁶⁾Let every living, breathing creature praise God! Hallelujah!

Psalms 150:1,6 *The Message*

Challenge: "What do you think is God's intention for calling us to worship?"

Cultivating Fruitfulness, R. Schnase

It's not all Business! Our Spiritual Journey Enhanced at Annual Meeting!



Logo by Chris Weathers

Attendants at the fall annual meeting experienced a spirit-filled worship service at Saturday's Greet the Day. It was led by Southeast District Spiritual Growth Coordinator Thomasene Thomas. True to our theme, "Telling Our Stories," several United Methodist Women blessed us as they shared their faith stories. As United Methodist Women, we connect with brothers and sister around the world praying for spiritual guidance in giving of ourselves as we live out our mission purpose. We all have a story and we must tell our story. The children, the orphans, the widows, the poor, the homeless and truly the lost need us for help and to show them the way. Many lives have been changed and made better because of the love and care of United Methodist Women. Guided by the Holy Spirit, may we continue faithfully in fulfilling our call and purpose in the world working and serving others unto the Lord. So, in love may we keep allowing God to use all our Gifts to be a blessing to others. Service comes freely as an expression of our appreciation of the love and grace God has given to us.

In God's Hands,

Joyce Moore, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

In your faith journey, you are invited to come share with a community of women whose purpose is to know God, experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, participate in creative fellowship and expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

President's Message

All those who attended the Fall Festival left having enjoyed the festivities and proud to be a part of the Texas Conference United Methodist Women. The barbeque was a great success, the House Party was outstanding, the focus groups were enlightening, and the skit about our foremothers was fun. This was a great way to culminate a productive year.



Your district leaders are busy getting ready for their fall meetings. I hope each of you will support your district by attending its meeting. These meetings are so important for the growth and enrichment of our organization. We are all connected in God's work in mission and spreading His word. We are beginning an important project called Membership Counts initiative. Women's Division has asked each conference to "make contact with every United Methodist Congregation and every organized local unit of the United Methodist Women." Our goal in this endeavor is to "establish and strengthen relationship with every local United Methodist congregation and unit of United Methodist Women." As a result it is hoped that we will make ourselves available and visible to the women of the church. We will be "a witness by sharing with congregations the impact of the work of United Methodist Women." You will be hearing more about this in your districts in the days ahead.

I hope you are making plans to attend Assembly 2010 in Missouri this spring. It is not often that this event is so close to us. You will find a new understanding and connection to UMW when you attend this Assembly. My heart skips a beat each time I walk into the convention center that is filled with dedicated United Methodist Women just like you and me from every part of the country. Be sure to register on line before November 30 for the discount and "Meet me in St. Louis."

May the Lord bless and keep you until we meet again. Thebe Worden

Hugs and Thanks

I want to thank the planning team, Lakeview staff, PS 100 band, all focus group leaders, Dr. Von Dawson, Monroe Walker, Marge Sackett and all who attended Fall Festival. You made it a SUCCESS! The B-B-Q was very good, the business session productive and the focus groups informative.

Our next big event is Spring Celebration the Spiritual Growth retreat, a time for spiritual renewal. Please mark your calendar for March 6, 2010. Bishop Huie will be our keynote speaker, and great focus groups are being planned.

Assembly 2010 is going to be great. Sign up for the bus and let's all go to St. Louis.

I thank God for all of you and I am looking forward to seeing you in March.

Mattie Ordaz,
Vice President



Travel by BUS with US

Coach USA, 55 passenger bus to St. Louis

Cost: is \$140 or \$150 - 25% deposit (This may go up or down.)

**Deposit Deadline -
January 15, 2010**

**Make check payable
to Texas Conf UMW**

**Final payment due -
March 15, 2010**



Bus will depart Houston location on 4/29/10 at 6:00 PM, arriving St. Louis 4/30/10 approximately 12:00 noon or later. Pick up location(s) will be determined later.

If there is interest from those traveling that are closer to Palestine, Marshall and Texarkana, pick up(s) with place and time can be arranged. Theresa Graham will confirm with the bus company by the 15th of December.

Checks or Money Orders are to be mailed to Theresa Graham, PO Box 75074, Houston, TX 77234-5074. Contact Theresa 713-408-3787 (c) or 281-484-1853 (h) after 6:00 pm. E mail address is: thgram@yahoo.com

Crowne Plaza Hotel Reservations Stay with the Texas Conference

Conference President Thebe Worden has reserved a block of rooms at the Crowne Plaza. Call Thebe 281-424-3384 for your reservation and information.



**Assembly 2010
St. Louis, Missouri
April 30-May 2
Register Online
www.umwmission.com
by November 30, 2009**

Call Theresa Graham for Bus Reservation
and Thebe Worden for your Hotel
You are ready for an exciting journey!

"We've never done this before...."

Following the scent of bar-b-q smoke and sounds of Western and gospel music wafting over the crisp September air, women made their way to the tabernacle at Lakeview. Tables decorated with bright bandanas and boots holding Texas wildflowers greeted them for a casual evening.

"We've never done this before" was a phrase heard again and again at the Texas Conference United Methodist Women's Fall Festival and Annual Meeting September 26-27. True to conference president Thebe Worden's challenge to be risk-taking, the program committee had planned a weekend of activities designed to "Tell our Stories."

The Friday night "Red Eye Special" was replaced with a "Meet Me in St. Louis" House Party preparing for Assembly next year. Good friends, those we look forward to seeing each time we get together and those we just met, shared their stories over games, conversation circles, and good food.

Business of the conference was completed at the morning business meeting. Eddie Hilliard received the Special Mission Recognition for his work with Ike relief and other missions. Completely surprised, Sidney Price received the "Mr. UMW" award for all the help he offers at all conference events and meetings. Both men live the United Methodist Women's focus of service and mission.

Focus Group leaders told the United Methodist Women's story in many ways: celebrating membership, encountering God, working for social action, giving to mission. Wilodyne Hooper told her story of work with United Methodist Women taking her places she never would have dreamed of going. Gwendolyn Young Smithheart concluded that our organization can gain momentum when we are flexible and allow United Methodist Women to embrace the interests of younger women and youth.

Instead of a key note speaker, the day ended with a play that told the United Methodist Women story from beginning mission societies to 1925. Ladies in period costumes brought our heritage to life. Their progress was not easy. They had to make changes to advance their purpose, just as we must do today.

Mary Landry,
Secretary



Texas Conference local UMW units give yourselves a big **Thank You** for a successful 2009 UMCOR Hands on Project. At Fall Festival a big U Haul truck loaded with kits left Lakeview Saturday morning headed to Sager-Brown Depot. The load contained 3,642 School Kits, 521 Health Kits, 346 extra school bags, numerous spare parts and \$1,905. Now, let's get organized for another success!

2010 Hands On Project
Birthing Kits.

For instructions see Fall Festival program book or
www.new.gbmg-umc.org/umcor

Carolyn Parker, E & I Coordinator

Good News and Not So Good News...

"GNews" first: The Texas Conference was recognized by Women's Division for "increase in Giving from 2007 to 2008". We were one of several conferences to receive this recognition. Now, the "NSGNews": In the South Central jurisdiction of 15 conferences, there were only four that met their pledges for 2008. Even with the recognition of our "increase in Giving, we did not meet our pledge of \$420,000 for 2008.

At the fall meeting 2008, members voted to reduce the pledge to Women's Division in 2009 to \$357,000. Completing three quarters we have sent in \$211,896.51 toward that pledge. We only have one more quarter to meet our pledge. The District Presidents have received information on how their district is meeting its pledge, so Treasurers, be sure and remit your mission dollars and financial reports by the year end deadline dates listed below.

The pledge service for 2010 was conducted at the fall business meeting. Our TxConference pledge for 2010 will be \$320,500 as approved by the members present.

"GNews" The Mission Candle program for 2009 brought in \$6,751.91 in support of missions. The offering taken at fall meeting was \$909.73 and will go toward our 2009 pledge to Women's Division.

Reminder! Year End Deadlines: (1) Special Mission Recognition (SMR) pin orders will be accepted and processed until December 15th. (2) Fourth quarter reports to the District Treasurers by the middle of November, (3) FYI: My final report from Texas Conference will be mailed on or before December 28, 2009.

Jerry Barber, Treasurer

Texas Conference UMW website
www.gbmg-umc.org/texasconfumw
www.umwonline.org

The Reading Program

The 2010 reading book list is awesome! Listed are a few recommendation for your review from the mission categories: **Spiritual Growth:** Longing for Enough in a Culture of More, a good book for group study on thoughtful reflections of life. **Social Action:** Road of Lost Innocence deals with trafficking and slavery, a big money maker in today's society. For today's youth who face so much more than yesterday's youth, I Wish I Knew What to Do?! is good. In this book youth share their feelings about everyday life dealing with bullies at school and as a parent how you can help them. **Nuturing For Community:** Caring for Mother: A Daughter's Long Goodbye. With so many of our parents living longer and having increasing health issues, we become their care givers. This book may offer some insight and comfort. In Growing Friendships, the author Tracy Klehn offers advice on developing new friendships and nuturing old relationships. **Education for Mission:** A Credible Witness uses the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus to show how to cross barriers of race, gender and social position in our world and to learn the true meaning of love. A Love Affair with India is an account of the life and times of Mable Lossing Jones, wife of E. Stanley Jones. She and her daughter Eunice, both accomplished missionaries, are little known but served and contributed greatly to the missions in India. For your reading pleasure in large print, senior adults may enjoy Living with Purpose in a Worn-Out Body. It is filled with spiritual encouragement for those struggling to find purpose at this point in their lives.

Enjoy!

Doris Woodland,
 Secretary of Program Resources
 Check at your local library
 or order your books online
 at www.missionresourcecenter.org

New Members of Nominations Committee

Joyce Bell, North District (2010)
 Marsha Hickerson, CSouth (2013)
 Hazel Mitchell, CSouth (2013)
 New Chairperson: Shirley Thomas, CNorth (2011)

2010 Calendar of Events

District Officers Training	January 9	Lakeview
Conf Executive Meeting	January 9-10	Lakeview
Legislative Event	January 24-26	Austin
Spiritual Growth Retreat	March 6	Lakeview
Assembly 2010	April 30-May 2	St. Louis
UMC TAConference	May 30-June 2	
UMW TC Program Meeting	May 30	
UMW Annual Luncheon	May 31	
UMW Executive Meeting	June 1	The Woodlands UMC
WGulf Regional School University	June 26-29	Dillard
Cooperative School of Christian Mission	July 29-31	Lakeview
Conf Program Meeting	August TBA	TBA
Wesley Community Event	TBA	
Conf Executive Meeting	September 24	
Fall Festival Friday Event	September 24	
Fall Festival Annual Meeting	September 25	
Conf Program Meeting	September 25-26	Lakeview
Leadership Training Event	November 20-22	TBA