



**United
Methodist
Women**

UMW UPDATE

West Market Street United Methodist Church

January 1, 2008

Time to Make our Pledges for Mission Giving

As we begin a new year, it is time once again to make our pledges to support mission through United Methodist Women. Your giving makes mission possible. Giving supports institutions and programs empowering and improving the lives of women, children and youth in the United States and around the world. Mission Giving provides food, shelter, education, employment, healthcare, and human rights advocacy for many living on the margins of society. Mission Giving supports United Methodist missionaries and deaconesses. Mission Giving also funds spiritual growth programs, leadership development events and mission education opportunities for United Methodist Women members.

Prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year...and give generously. YOU are making a difference, every day, in the lives of women, children and youth around the world. Thank you!



As We Start the New Year

*Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth,
A glad new year to all the earth.*

~Martin Luther

Happy New Year! And, blessings as we begin a new year for United Methodist Women! I hope your Advent & Christmas season was filled with peace, hope, joy, and love as you celebrated God's most precious gift.

Thank you for your generous giving in 2007. Our unit met our pledge, gave in all five channels of undesignated Mission Giving, supported the Call to Prayer & Self Denial designated offering, and supported a number of local mission projects right here in Greensboro. In addition to your financial gifts, you responded generously to each of our hands-on mission opportunities. **Thank you!**

January is the month that we once again make our pledges to support mission around the world through United Methodist Women. I encourage you to prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year...and to once again make a commitment to give generously.

Check out the planning dates in this update and mark your calendar for upcoming events. Our first general meeting for 2008 will be Monday, March 3rd.

Thank you for your commitment to mission as a member of United Methodist Women. Through that commitment, YOU are making a difference, every day, in the lives of women, children, and youth around the world.

Shalom,
Lynne Gilbert

TELL THE STORY...INVITE A FRIEND TO YOUR CIRCLE MEETING!

What does being a member of United Methodist Women mean to you? Are things like the following important to you?

- the caring & supportive community
- the opportunities for spiritual growth & mission education
- being part of a group of women that is organized for mission...making a difference around the world by sharing the love of Jesus Christ

You can surely name more reasons that you are a part of United Methodist Women. Share that story with someone you know who is not a member of United Methodist Women...and invite them to come with you to your circle meeting!

UPDATE - UMW CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Thank you for your support of our West Market UMW Christmas Projects! A variety of clothing items for Washington Elementary School were received, and \$201.00 was received for the Early Childhood Center. **Thank You!!**



Treasurer's Report

(Based on Gifts Received through December 31, 2007)

Amount Pledged	\$9,468.00
Number of Members Pledging	118
Amount Paid	\$9,836.00
Circle Special Projects (Includes Christmas)	\$1,850.00
Sale of Mission Cards	\$695.00
A Call to Prayer & Self-Denial	\$528.67
World Thank Offering	\$911.19
Fundraising: Sale of Notecards	\$120.00
Fundraising: Sale of Brass Ornaments	\$262.00

Martha Faye Robbins, Treasurer
 292-8564 or e-mail
marthamrobbins@bellsouth.net

Warm Up with a Good Book!

The cold winds of January are howling, and ice and snow are forecast. Warm up with an inspiring book from our Reading Program collection! Here are some of the books added to our collection recently, with category in parentheses:

They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan (Education for Mission)

Keeping Spiritual Balance as We Grow Older (Nurturing for Community)

Earth Trek: Celebrating and Sustaining God's Creation (Social Action)

Letters to a Young Doubter (Spiritual Growth)

The Spider's Web (Nurturing for Community), a youth book

Mama's Window (Nurturing for Community), a youth book

Also, three books on the 2008 Reading Program list were already on the library shelves in the "regular collection". They are *Jesus' Parables of the Lost and Found*, *10 Gospel Promises for Later Life*, and *Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life*. Librarian Peggy Joyner will be glad to help you locate them should you choose to read one for credit.

Stay tuned, more books on the 2008 Reading Program list are being added to our collection!

And, congratulations to our members who completed plans in the Reading Program for 2007:

Plan 1 (four books): Lynne Gilbert, Mary Belle Gilbert, Emily Johnston, Carolyn Russ

Plan 2 (ten books): Mary Jo Elmore, Peggy Joyner, Nancy Kerr, Jane White

Emily Johnston, Secretary of Program Resources

Spiritual Growth Retreats

June 13-14/14-15

Lake Junaluska

The 2008 Western North Carolina Conference Spiritual Growth Retreats for United Methodist Women will take place June 13-14 and 14-15, at Lake Junaluska. The theme this year will be "The Rooms of Your Life", led by guest speaker Jean Padgett. There is no advance registration for the retreats, but housing reservation requests for housing in Lake Junaluska hotels can be mailed on February 11, 2008. The retreats are a wonderful 24 hour get away for inspiration and renewal. If you are interested in going, contact Lynne Gilbert (207-3479 or lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net) for a housing reservation form.

PLANNING DATES FOR 2008

- February 5 Pancake Day @ West Market – Benefitting Habitat for Humanity
- February 16 Greensboro District UMW Mission Study/Luncheon, 9am-2pm, Christ UMC
- March 3 West Market UMW Executive Meeting
- March 3 West Market UMW General Meeting**
- April 4-6 Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting of United Methodist Women, Hampton, VA
- April 19 Greensboro District UMW Prayer Breakfast, 8am, Asbury UMC
- May 5 West Market UMW Executive Meeting
- May 5 West Market UMW General Meeting**
- June 13/14 & 14/15 Spiritual Growth Retreats, Lake Junaluska
- July 24-27 School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College
- August 23 Greensboro District UMW Annual Meeting/Breakfast, 8am, Muir's Chapel UMC
- Sept. 5-7 Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska
- October 6 West Market UMW Executive Meeting
- October 6 West Market UMW General Meeting**
- Nov. 15 Greensboro District UMW Officer Training for Local Officers, 9am-12pm, Guilford College UMC
- December 1 West Market UMW Executive Meeting
- December 1 West Market UMW General Meeting**

The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of 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.

2008

Happy New Year!

