



United Methodist Women

UMW UPDATE

West Market Street United Methodist Church
February 1, 2008

UMW General Meeting

Monday, March 3rd

Fellowship Hall - Dinner at 6:00 PM

Program: Focus on Mission...our church ministry partnership in Bulgaria

Hands-on Project: Prayer Shawl knitting supplies for Bulgaria (see article below)

Awaken your senses at the March UMW General Meeting as we learn about our church's ministry partnership in Bulgaria. Hear about West Market's partnership with three United Methodist churches in Bulgaria and learn how you are a part of this exciting new ministry. **Touch** this ministry through making prayer bracelets for team members and participating in the hands-on-project. **See** pictures of the beautiful Bulgarian countryside, the people and the partnership churches. **Taste** a bit of Bulgarian food. Elizabeth Montgomery will share information about what it means to be in partnership, what activities this summer's mission team will engage in, and future plans

and ideas for this ministry. **Hope you can join us!**

Reservations for dinner are required, and must be in by Sunday, February 24th. Call Peggy Joyner (274-0710) or Patricia Troxler (292-2164) to make your reservations. Cost of dinner is \$6.00. Childcare is available, by reservation only. **Reservations for childcare** are also due by Sunday, February 24th. If you would like to attend, but need transportation, let Peggy or Patricia know, and we will be happy to arrange that for you.

The executive committee will meet prior to the General Meeting, off of the Fellowship Hall, at 5:00pm.

From the President...

Greetings! **I hope you will make plans to join us on March 3rd for our general meeting**, as we learn more about our church partnership with Bulgaria. It should be a fun and informative evening. **Make a dinner reservation today!**

It is hard to believe that February is here, and we are about to begin the season of Lent. This is a time of year when United Methodist Women across the country share in the **Call to Prayer and Self Denial** observance & offering. I encourage you to read more about Call to Prayer & Self Denial in the article in this UPDATE...and to participate...by using the prayer card you will receive in your circle meeting, and by sharing in the offering.



One more reminder about making housing reservations for the **Spiritual Growth Retreats** at Lake Junaluska (June 13-14/14-15)...reservation forms can be mailed beginning February 11th. Contact me if you are interested...I will be glad to tell you about the retreats, and give you a form. You can also read about the retreats on our conference website at www.wnccumw.org.

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 (207-3479)

March Meeting Hands-on Project: Collecting Prayer Shawl Yarn for Bulgaria

Members of the WMSUMC mission team this summer will teach the women how to knit prayer shawls. You are invited to bring yarn or knitting needles to the March meeting.



- Please bring enough yarn to complete one prayer shawl - purchase 600 yards of the same yarn, check to ensure the dye lot number is the same if you have to purchase more than one skein.
- Machine washable and dryable, acrylic yarn is preferred (*not* 100% wool).
- Michaels, A.C. Moore, Hobby Lobby and other stores have a good selection of yarn at reasonable prices (approximately \$12-15/prayer shawl).
- Size 11 or 13 knitting needles of any material are needed.

Thank you for helping this ministry in Bulgaria get started!



Treasurer's Report

(Based on Gifts/Pledges Received through January 22, 2008)

Amount Pledged	\$6,772.50
Number of Members Pledging	70
Amount Paid	\$2,688.00
Circle Special Projects	\$67.00

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

Check Out Our New Books!

Our unit recently purchased 19 new books for the Reading Program Collection, located in the UMW section of our Church Library. Following is a list of the 9 new books from the 2008 Reading Program list, with category in parentheses:

End of the Spear: A True Story (Education for Mission); *Who's Raising Your Child: Battling the Marketers for Your Child's Heart and Soul* (Nurturing for Community); *Enrique's Journey* (Social Action); *And We are Changed: Encounters with a Transforming God* (Spiritual Growth); *Living Bountifully!: The Blessing of Responsible Stewardship* (Spiritual Growth); *Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino* (Spiritual Growth); *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan* (Education for Mission), a children's book; *Does God Hear My Prayer?* (Spiritual Growth), a children's book; and *Heck Superhero* (Social Action), a youth book. Stop by the church library and "check out" our new arrivals!



Emily Johnston, Secretary of Program Resources

2008 CALL TO PRAYER & SELF DENIAL

2008 Theme: *Learning for a Lifetime*

The Call to Prayer & Self Denial observance continues a 100+ year tradition...read more below. The 2008 offering provides an opportunity for sacrificial giving to support programs for women, children and youth at mission institutions related to United Methodist Women and the General Board of Global Ministries.

From the Handbook: A Call to Prayer & Self Denial 2005-2008:

Call to Prayer and Self Denial (a time of study, prayer and giving) began in 1887 as a Week of Prayer. "Now, growth is the law of life; to cease to grow is to begin to die. So the women called upon one another to pray for

an entire week - together at church or with prayer cards at home."

Call to Prayer and Self Denial became a way "to consecrate a portion from abounding riches or scant poverty to send forth the good tiding of great joy unto all the earth". Through the years, A Call to Prayer has allowed mission-minded women to donate monies as a three-way blessing - to bless the giver, the worker in the field, and those who benefit from the gifts. This annual time of giving has also been a time for study and prayer - to become quiet, listen to God, and take time out to say Yes to the spirit.

After the turmoil of the Depression, World War I and the increasingly rapid pace of life, a *Quiet Day* became a time of retreat from all the busyness of life. "Silence is observed that one may listen to the Voice within. ... During such a period, the roots of one's being may go farther down than ever before and fasten more surely and more securely about the Foundation Rock of Life - God - than one had previously thought possible." As later noted in 1955: "We are so earthbound we rarely allow our spirits to soar. Let us try to forget our fast schedules on which we have been running our lives, and let our souls catch up with us."

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is a time of reflection, a time to contemplate gifts for God's larger family, and to prepare for Lent. Use your prayer card; pray daily for the mission programs around the world for women, children and youth that will be made possible by your offering; and give generously.

PLANNING DATES FOR 2008

- February 16 Greensboro District UMW Mission Study/Luncheon, 9am-2pm, Christ UMC
- March 3 West Market UMW Executive Meeting, 5:00pm
- March 3 West Market UMW General Meeting, 6:00pm**
- 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.