



Crossties

Central Texas Conference
United Methodist Women

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Number 1

Happy New Year! Let's take time to Rethink United Methodist Women



Cynthia Rives
President

The United Methodist Church has a campaign going on right now called Rethink Church which targets people, especially young people, who are not part of a church. It encourages them to give the United Methodist Church a try; the

church might not be what they think it is.

At the same time Rethink Church speaks to those within the church. I think the message is, "It's time to change." It calls us to think about what we do as the church, and if it isn't something worthy of Christ, to stop and do something that is.

Well, I think we need to Rethink United Methodist Women as well. We need to get the word out to women of every age that UMW just might be for them. They need to give us a try. United Methodist Women might not be what they think it is.

At the same time I hope members of United Methodist Women will Rethink United Methodist Women and as individuals, units, districts, and conferences work to discover avenues for active change. One way to tell if something is alive is to ob-

see **Rethink UMW**, page 4

Charter for Racial Justice Event Sing A Rainbow ~ January 30 Come to the Feast!

If you've come to every Sing A Rainbow we have ever had or you've never come before, please - Come to the Feast! Sing A Rainbow is our Conference Charter for Racial Justice Event and this year our theme is Come to the Feast!, A Celebration of Diversity, led by Dr. Carolyn E. Johnson, former president of the Women's Division. Carolyn is the chief diversity officer at Purdue University and is a very busy woman working in many different areas of United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Church, and much more. Having attended a workshop Carolyn led in 2008, I can tell you she will be a true delight!

Put Saturday, January 30, at Arlington FUMC on your calendar right now! The schedule is 9:00 A.M. - registration, 10:00 A.M. - program, and 2:30 P. M.- dismissal. And make sure you bring a car load of women with you, too. Everyone will be blessed by the day. The registration form which includes directions to the church is included in this newsletter on page 7. There is no charge for this event.

The feast comes from you! If you are able, please bring a dish to share that is from a culture other than your own (and the recipe, too). At the registration table, just drop off your dish with the hostesses from the Mid-Cities District and they will take care of setting up for lunch. You will pick up your dish from the serving table following the event.

There will be a silent auction for Mission Giving. You are encouraged to bring items for the auction and bid on them as well.

There will be program resources available to purchase also. see **Sing A Rainbow**, page 5

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Take Action

Janice Whitecotton

Legislative Event for 2010, have you registered? I hope you can join us this year. The event will feature presentations by **Texas Tribune** editor **Evan Smith**, health and food guru **Dr. Eduardo Sanchez**, public school finance expert **Lynn Moak**, **Center for Social Inclusion** advocacy coordinator **Lynda Turet**, and other policy experts speaking on topics ranging from childhood obesity and public school funding to redistricting and immigration. The dates are **January 24-26, 2010, at the Doubletree at the Capitol in Austin. Online registration is available at texasimpact.org**

Human Trafficking, the Fort Worth District, January 9, and the Weatherford District, April 24, have decided to host a district program on this topic. I hope your unit or district is planning an event to learn more about the growing issue of modern day slavery. It affects women and children, urban and rural, in this country as well as people in every country around the world. This year's Program Book includes a program on Human Trafficking. I have also ordered two documentaries on DVD recommended by Women's Division, **Not for Sale** and **Lives for Sale**. Please contact me if you are interested in borrowing these from the Conference or other program information.

Wow, Sing a Rainbow, our Charter for Racial Justice Event is just around the corner, January 30. Have you registered? Do you know what dish you are preparing? Is your unit going to be recognized as a **Charter Club** member? Come and enjoy the good food, celebrate our diversity and find out what our units did to become Charter Club member. See you there.

Membership, Nurture, and Outreach News

Cindy Damon

Greetings! I hope this finds your unit doing great. Are you meeting at times that can reach all potential and present members? Are you working to include teen and college age women? Are you working to meet the needs of your women where they are – such as by forming reading, quilting, or other sub-groups? If you have anything exciting to share about your unit, I would love to hear from you!

Don't forget that your local unit report is due to your District Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator as close to January 15 as possible! The district coordinator should have sent you this form!

Feel free to call on me if I can be of any assistance!
254-486-2392 • cdamon07@aol.com

Assembly Offering - 2010

Christie Roberts, Treasurer

The Assembly is rapidly coming upon us and this is an opportunity for the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women to connect with other United Methodist Women from all over the world. It is an opportunity to celebrate the mission work done in honor of our Savior- past, present and future.

Whether you are able to attend or not, you can still take part and a help by contributing to the Assembly offering. If each unit could send a small offering for Assembly, we would be able to take a considerable amount to St. Louis in April. We have the first quarter of 2010 to collect this offering. It would be like the "two cents and a prayer" offerings that has inspired us through our United Methodist Women's history. Together our small offerings build into amazing opportunities to serve the needs of women, children and youth around the world.

Faith, Hope and Love in Action Register for Assembly! You'll love it!

Every United Methodist Woman is invited to attend Assembly in St. Louis April 30-May 2, 2010. You don't have to be an officer! Everyone is invited! Just go to www.umwmission.org and click on the Assembly Registration box and follow the easy instructions. Registration is \$250. For help with a paper registration form contact Cynthia at cynrives@yahoo.com phone number 254-968-5785 or Myrtis at 817-292-3759.

Help Us Fill the Bus! We have 3 more seats to fill.

We need more women to ride the CTC Charter Bus to Assembly. The cost is \$110 for the round trip. The bus leaves on Thursday, April 29 at 8:00 a.m. and returns at 12:30 a.m. early Monday morning, May 3. For more information contact Christie Roberts (chrispr@rocketmail.com) or Cynthia Rives for more information.

A Call for Dancers!

The Assembly planners are calling for some dancers from our conference to participate in worship on Sunday morning. You don't need prior dance training to participate. Dancers will need to practice on Friday afternoon for an hour and Saturday afternoon for 2 hours. If you're interested in doing this please contact Cynthia at 254-968-5785.

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.

Come to the Feast

Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women

Welcoming Diversity by Sitting Down Together for

Bible Study, Discussion, and a Special Meal

January 30, 2010 Arlington FUMC

9:00 am- coffee/snacks/registration, 10:00 a.m. program, 2:30 p.m. dismissal



LEADER:
DR. CAROLYN E.
JOHNSON

Carolyn E. Johnson is Chief
Diversity Officer for Purdue
University in West Lafayette,
Indiana. She has served on all
levels of UMW, and is past
national president of the
Women's Division.

From I-30 Take the Cooper Street exit and go south. Continue on Cooper street until you reach Division Street. Turn left on Division. Then turn left when you reach Mesquite Street. Turn left on North Street and park behind the church.

From I-20 Take the Cooper Street exit and go north. Continue on Cooper Street (you will go through the UTA campus) until you reach Division Street. Turn right on Division. Then turn left when you reach Mesquite Street. Turn left on North Street and park behind the church.

From 360 Turn West on Division. (Approx. 5 blocks past Collins) Turn Right on Mesquite to North Street. The parking lot will be on your left.

Lunch: If you are able, please bring your favorite dish from a culture other than your own and a copy of the recipe for our future cookbook.

Registration Deadline- January 25

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Email _____
District _____ Church _____

Childcare Needed Yes No Please register for child care by Jan. 15

Ages of children _____ Please bring sack lunch for each child.

Send registrations to :

Theresa Robinson
2129 Briardale Rd., Fort Worth, 76119 Phone 817-536-5537

Rethink UMW *(cont'd from page 1)*

serve how it changes. Is your unit changing? Is it more like a tree or a rock? How can your unit change for good during the year to come? We have been given the gift of another new year, a fresh start! Please take time to thoughtfully plan what we need to do, how we need to change. Let's be love in action living the purpose on United Methodist Women!

In 2010 and for the rest of this quadrennial, we will be encouraging membership in United Methodist Women through a visit to every church in the conference. Each district has a visitation coordinator and these women are at work already. I'm excited about this program because a visitor can often bring energy and enthusiasm to a unit. We want to encourage women in every church who are not already involved in a UMW unit to Rethink UMW. Please be ready with open arms when these new folks walk in the door. Make sure your programs are top notch and the new women experience "radical hospitality". In fact, we all need to invite someone new to our next meeting. We have something great to share.

Please work to meet the Conference goals of a 2% increase in membership. I know with God's help, we can do it!

I look forward to hearing from you about how you are rethinking UMW. Sharing your story is one way to bless others with a new idea, an inspiration, a big dose of encouragement, and so much more. Let's Rethink UMW!

Blessings to you in this New Year,
Cynthia

P.S. Hope to see you at Legislative Event in Austin on January 24-26. This is one of the best programs we do all year. Look for Janice Whitecotton's article in this newsletter for more information.

And of course, be sure to "Come to the Feast!" on January 30th at Arlington FUMC for Sing A Rainbow with our guest leader Dr. Carolyn E. Johnson. The registration form is included in this newsletter.

From Our Women's Division Director

There are so many things going on at Women's Division I hardly know where to start.

First: The Fall Board meeting of both General Board of Global Ministries and Women's Division approved the proposed restructure. The following will result from the restructure.

1. Women's Division will receive direct oversight and responsibility for United Methodist Women supported national missions.
2. WD will assume the responsibility for the administration and funding of the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioners.
3. WD will allocate its missionary support to the regional missionaries working with women, children and youth.
4. The approved reconfiguration of relationships coincides with WD's new strategic ten year plan.

Second: Assembly - - "FAITH, HOPE, LOVE IN ACTION" I hope you have already registered. If you haven't, there is still time. However, the time for early registration reduced fee has expired. Exciting things are in the works. CeCe Winans, Judy Woodruff, Lela Downs, Bishop Joaquina Nhanala (Mozambique Episcopal Area), Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Rev. Anita Phillips and Erica L Williams will be a part of the event.

Ubunta Day of Service is a pre-assembly, hands on mission excursion that will send hundreds of United Methodist Women throughout St. Louis, MO., as volunteers and helping hands for local non-profit organizations.

How could you miss out on this event? Do you want to hear from dynamic circles, units, districts and conferences? Do you want to see the latest in resources and hear from leaders? United Methodist Women Assembly is the place for you!

Third: Finances continue to be a challenge. I hope and pray that each unit is able to meet their pledge. Not just Central Texas Conference, but units from all across the US. That would enable conferences to meet their pledges. CTC did not meet its pledge in 2008. Let us all try a little harder. I realize the economy isn't good, look around and see all the opportunities to serve. I serve on the finance committee; investments have slightly improved over 2008. The staff is reducing spending every where possible. But finances are tight.

Fourth: 2010 Regional School plans are underway. CTC will be in New Orleans again this year. I am assigned to the Pacific school again this year. I will miss out on going to Cody, WY, this year. We are changing to California.

To stay informed: Join the Online Community, read "News United Methodist Women" and Response. Keep working in the service of our God.

Blessings,
Edna Davis, Director



Edna Davis

UMCOR Kits Travel to Assembly

Central Texas Conference UMW members and units have an opportunity to send UMCOR kits to assembly! The kits can be Health Kits or School Kits. Instructions for the kits are as follows:

Health Kit items: \$12.00 value

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket – sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

School Kit items: \$11.00 value

- 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 eraser, 2 x 2 1/2"
- 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Prepare a 14" x 16" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and an optional closure (Velcro, snap, or button) and place items in the bag.

Important kit assembly information:

- All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested-nothing more.
- Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Packing Kits:

- Box weight. Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds

These kits may be taken to University United Methodist Church before April 29. The church is located at 2416 West Berry in Fort Worth, Texas. The phone number is (817) 926-4626. Ask for Dana, the office manager, and she can tell you where to put them. Again, they must be there by April 29.

For more information contact:

Cindy Damon
P. O. Box 6
Crawford, Texas 76638
(254) 486-2392
cindydamon@lorenaisd.net

Sing A Rainbow *(cont'd from page 1)*

Here are the directions to Arlington FUMC:

From I-30 Take the Cooper Street exit and go south. Continue on Cooper Street until you reach Division Street. Turn left on Division. Then turn left when you reach Mesquite Street. Turn left on North Street and park behind the church.

From I-20 Take the Cooper Street exit and go north. Continue on Cooper Street (you will go through the UTA campus) until you reach Division Street. Turn right on Division. Then turn left when you reach Mesquite Street. Turn left on North Street and park behind the church.

From 360 Turn West on Division. (Approx. 5 blocks past Collins) Turn Right on Mesquite to North Street. The parking lot will be on your left.

The following is information about how to get into the church building:

The church is bounded by Mesquite St on the east side (one way north) and by Center St on the west side (one way south). North St runs on the north side of the church and Division runs on the south side of the church.

There is limited parking on Division; enter through the double glass doors under the portico. The main parking is on North Street; enter through the double glass doors under the stained glass window.

Please help spread the word and on January 30, bring a carload of women, a dish from another culture to share, and a big smile. Come to the Feast!

Crossties is published three times annually by the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women.

Crossties is sent to all Conference, District and Local officers and Conference clergy.

For individual subscriptions or address corrections, Please send name and address to:

District Communications Coordinator
or
MeOsha Bell
PO Box 8137
Fort Worth, TX 76124
meokij@yahoo.com

Call for Prayer “Shawls” and Baby Blankets

Everyone is asked to give a prayer shawl Here’s an opportunity for you to participate in Assembly. We did this at the last Assembly and the display of all the shawls and blankets together was breathtakingly beautiful. Let’s do it again!

A shawl of any kind provides warmth. A prayer shawl provides not only warmth, but also compassion and caring. To make such a garment, the only tools needed are needles, thread or fabric. The resulting shawl means warmth and love, both for the wearer and for the creator.

Across the United States, United Methodist Women members are knitting, crocheting or sewing prayer shawls to give to people in their communities who need compassion, caring, warmth, and love. When shawls are completed, they are blessed during brief services in local churches, and then distributed nearby.

In the months ahead, Assembly 2010 planners are urging United Methodist Women members who have skills in knitting, crocheting or sewing to create prayer shawls and baby blankets for those in need. The shawls and baby blankets may be made from yarn and needles, or thread and fabric. Suggested sizes for the prayer shawls are: triangle 65’ long and 32’ center back, rectangle 19” x 69” or 14” x 70”. These are suggested sizes and shouldn’t limit your creativity. In the months immediately preceding Assembly 2010 (April 30- May 2), United Methodist Women members should take completed prayer shawls and baby blankets to their local churches to be blessed. Then send the shawls to Linda C. Douglas, Women’s Division, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1504, New York, NY 10115 by March 1, 2010.

Prayer shawls and blankets will be on display in the Experience Hall area of Assembly 2010. At the end of Assembly, the shawls will be distributed to those in need. Some of the shawls will be available for purchase for a minimum \$25 donation with proceeds going to United Methodist Women’s Mission Giving. In a spirit of Faith•Hope•Love in Action use your talents and skills to share warmth and love with others.

Please complete and return the attached form “Call for Shawls” to Linda C. Douglas at the address on the form. For more information, contact: Linda Douglas at ldouglas@gbgm-umc.org or 212-870-3753.

Call for Prayer “Shawls” and Baby Blankets

_____ Yes, I/we will submit, by March 1, 2010, a Shawl(s) and/or Baby Blanket for the Assembly 2010

Conference/District/Church _____

Contact Name _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please return this form to:

Linda C. Douglas, Women’s Division, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1504, New York, NY 10115

Email ldouglas@gbgm-umc.org Fax 212-870-3736



CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
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Fort Worth, TX 76124

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Assembly Got Talent

We are looking for participants to represent our conference in Assembly Got Talent. We are doing a talent contest like America's Got Talent. Doesn't that sound like fun? Please let Cynthia know if you've signed up or want help doing so. We've Got Talent! Let's make Central Texas Conference proud!

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

May 14-16, 2010

Central Texas Conference Spiritual
Growth Retreat

at

Lakeview Camp and Conference Center

“FAITH, FITNESS, FOOD AND YOU”

Come and Experience a Weekend
of Renewal, Refreshment and
Rejuvenation

Elvin Adams, MD, MPH, Facilitator