

A newsletter for the United Methodist Women of the
New Hampshire District of the New England Conference



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.

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice.

From our President-Jennie Young

Psalm 23

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.

³He restoreth my soul..."

We all need that for our souls! After a long, dark winter, we need the restorative sunshine and warm breezes – the beautiful colors of Spring.

Ahhh....breathe it all in! Those glorious smells of the earth as it wakes up. The mapley smell of the sap being boiled, the

beautiful fragrances and colors of the early blooms, the warmth of the sun as it kisses your face..."*He restoreth my soul...*"every Spring that verse becomes so real to me.

I invite you to join us as New Hampshire District United Methodist Women to our Annual Spring Meeting on April 14th to get away from the pressures of the world and restore your soul at our Spiritual Spa. The District team led by Ginny Gerseny has a wonderful day planned that will soothe your soul and



Spirit. Maybe you know of a woman who isn't currently a UMW member that you might invite. This may be just the thing that encourages her and lifts her up and shows her just how wonderful it is to be a UMW member. Let the God of All restore your soul and lead you.

Blessings,
Jennie

Up Coming Events

Saturday, April 14, 2012

NH-UMW District Spring Meeting
Manchester, NH

Thurs-Sat, June 14-16, 2012

Quadrennial Meeting

Hershey, PA

Saturday, September 29, 2012

NH-UMW District Fall Meeting
Keene, NH

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012

New England Conference
UMW Annual Meeting

Burlington, Vermont

UMW District Meeting -- Saturday, April 14
St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Manchester, NH

Pack Your Bags for a Spiritual Spa

April 14th is your day to be informed, enriched, inspired and pampered!

All this, plus lunch and snacks for only \$7.00.

Please turn to Page 7 for more information and registration form.

What a wonderful idea! Imagine yourself having a time just to relax, no phone to ring, no doorbell to chime. Surrounded by friends you are ready to be pampered, to understand what a miracle your body is, and to find new ways to treat it well. More than your body will be refreshed; your spirituality will be addressed with memorable thoughts and ideas. And don't forget the laughter; it's always fun at a District Meeting.

All this and more is waiting for you at the next UMW District Meeting, at St. Paul's UMC in Manchester, N. H. on Saturday, April 14. The doors will open at 8:30 am with hot coffee and breakfast snacks waiting for you. At 9:00 the program will begin.

In the morning there will be three sessions concerning eyes, hands and Reiki, a form of seated Yoga. After lunch we will all consider the therapy of laughter, and see a play called "Attitudes" followed by our closing worship and communion.

We are grateful for the hospitality of St. Paul's Church!

Driving directions to St Paul's Church:

From the North

- From Route 93S exit at 9S (in Hooksett) to US 3 & S/RT-28 for 1.6 miles toward Manchester.
- Turn sharply to the left on to Webster Street. (If you come to Walnut Street, you have gone too far.)
- Turn right on Pickering Street (just past Belmont St.) for a short .13 of a mile. (If you reach Wagner Street you have gone a little too far.)
- Make a slight right turn onto Smythe Road. St. Paul UMC will be on the left.
- (If you reach Bruce Rd. you've gone a little too far.)

From the South

- Travel north on Daniel Webster Hwy to Everett Turnpike N. About 10 miles.
- Take Exit 5, Granite St. Turn Right onto Granite Street
- Just past Bedford Street turn left onto Canal Street.
- Just past Union Street turn left onto Walnut Street.
- Take the first right onto Blodget Street.
- Turn a slight left onto Smyth Rd.
- St. Paul UMC is on the right, just past Bruce Rd.



In Which Seven Were You?

The day matched my mood. It was dark and rainy. Every muscle in my body felt the dampness, including my brain. And before me was the prospect of telling the Board that our carefully planned big event was falling apart. The week-end before 60 women was descending upon us in just a few days.

The phone calls came in – one after another: *“Of course I understand, Jill. I’m sure someone else can play the piano.” “Don’t have a second thought about, Kay. There are others who can help in the kitchen I’m sure.” “Julie – I don’t understand why suddenly, we cannot do the set-up on Friday. We have to set the tables the day before.”*

From our Vice President - Ginny Gerseny

All of these worries and more were weighing me down as I entered the church parlor. There in front of me was Donna, our brand new secretary, brandishing a coffee pot and holding out a steaming cup. “Have some, Ginny – its sunshine on a rainy day.”

Finding a chair in the circle I put down my bag of lists; remember this- don’t forget – do that – the joys of being a chairman. Jean extended an envelope to me, and for a flashing moment, I wondered what bad news she was handing me. She smiled and said “It’s the opening prayer and litany. I hope they will be all right.” That dear lady! She has such a lovely gift with words. Her creations are songs of praise and love. Suddenly the clouds lifted about three inches.

Finally the necessities were done, and the president enthusiastically

exclaimed, “Now let’s talk about the Spiritual Spa.

Oh, dear!

I looked around the room. One of our most vibrant spark plugs had just moved to Montana. So what if her husband was transferred – how dare she move! For some unknown reason our always faithful treasurer was not there, she whose organizational abilities were a treasure in themselves. Of a Board of 14 there were 7 present and 2 of them were brand new replacement officers.

So I began my tale of despair. First a sad overview, and then crisis by crisis ending with “What will we do?” For a moment, nothing. And then these women began to react.

“I could ask Rachel to play the piano – she will be there anyway.” “If we came at 7:45 we could get the tables set up.” “We can get everything ready in the kitchen on Friday.”

And so it went. Those seven women who usually sat quietly in Board meetings, waiting for instructions became entrepreneurs. They went over the whole program fine tuning it to the last centerpiece.

As the clouds lifted to show me a veritable rainbow I suddenly realized that the joke was on me. If that had been our usual meeting with the full complement of officers these ladies who rarely offered solutions, took over! This was their day to rescue the event, to leave that room with purpose and enthusiasm, and for all of us to know more about a creative supportive fellowship.

We still were four days away from the event, but when we needed it God’s light shone upon us. I hope the seven missing members had a good experience that day, but I know that the seven who were the Board team were blessed and inspired in a way they will not soon forget.

2012 Requirements for a Mission Today Unit



Gold Unit----- Complete 8 of the top 13 and another 8

Silver Unit----- Complete 6 of the top 13 and another 6

Bronze Unit----- Complete 4 of the top 13 and another 4

Throughout the year check off the completed requirements and submit this form by **December 31, 2012** to your District Education and Interpretation coordinator.

- ___1. Use the Prayer Calendar at each unit meeting and pray for the persons in mission
- ___2. Use at least two programs from the Program Book for your unit meetings
- ___3. The unit, circle or subgroup will conduct at least one School of Christian Mission study each year.
- ___4. The unit will be a 5 Star Unit, contributing to all five areas of Mission Giving
- ___5. The unit shall add at least two new members to the membership rolls.
- ___6. Promote and offer scholarships to the School of Christian Missions
- ___7. Make available scholarships to young women ages 12-25 to the School of Christian Mission.
- ___8. Unit will conduct at least one educational program related to the Environment (*Green issues*)
- ___9. Each unit shall participate in a United Methodist Women's internet social connection i.e. Facebook, Twitter or Online Community
- ___10. Provide support financially or in-kind to the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center (the only United Methodist National Mission Institution in New England)
- ___11. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least one way during the year.
What did you do? _____
- ___12. Each unit will include a "Response Moment" where an article from Response Magazine is lifted up as a way to "tell the mission story"
- ___13. The United Methodist Women's PURPOSE shall be read or sung at each unit meeting.
- ___14. The unit shall submit its Pledge to Mission to the District Treasurer.
- ___15. At least one member of the unit (other than a district or conference officer) shall attend a School of Christian Mission.
- ___16. At least two members (other than a district or conference officer) shall attend the Conference UMW Annual Gathering/Meeting.
- ___17. The unit will have at least two members subscribe to Response Magazine
- ___18. At least one member should join the UM Women's Action Network and respond to legislative information at least three times a year.
- ___19. Members will correspond with five (5) persons listed in the Prayer Calendar
- ___20. The unit will co-sponsor with the local church a Children's Sabbath.
<http://new.gbqm-umc.org/resources/annual/childrens-sabbath/>
- ___21. Will have at least one member serve on a United Methodist mission related board or agency
- ___22. Have at least two members participate in the Reading Program
- ___23. Plan and participate in a United Methodist Sunday
- ___24. At least 2 members volunteer at a local Food Bank, feeding program, women's shelter or agency that works with women and children
- ___25. The unit shall select a project from Women's Division Material Resources for Mission Catalog and contribute the needed items to a mission program (other than Cooper.)) Where did you send goods? _____



Social Action – Dorothy Yamashita

What Does Community Look Like?

Micah 6:8 “God has told you.....what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

The February issue of RESPONSE magazine included two articles: “What Does Community Look Like?” and “Micah Moments” which I hope you recall as you read this.

As members of United Methodist Women, we have the opportunity to identify with an organization that makes a tremendous difference in our world, but does that mean we can ignore the family down the street?

Here in New England, tropical storm IRENE called us into action in the fall of 2011 as we helped collect food for storm victims.



As Lebanon UMW planned their 2012 program, everyone agreed

that we need to continue to reach out to people close to home. Financial support is the easy part; but how do we go the “extra mile”?

Our year usually started with the Pledge program, including a special speaker and sometimes a dinner. However, 2012 started out differently!

We decided that in January, during our turn at preparing the monthly LISTEN dinner that happens at our church each Friday we would carry it a step further and include a “Winter Fun and Survival” party – with games and a sing-a-long before dinner and then following the dinner would have our UMW Pledge service in the sanctuary. Some of the guests affected by Tropical Storm Irene... here was a way we could help them forget about their daily struggles for a short time.

For many years, **LISTEN** (Lebanon In Service To Each Neighbor) dinners have been served each night at many churches in our area and is served at our church on Friday nights. UMW members take their turn preparing food on a regular basis. We had always been encouraged to join the guests at the table, but few of us had actually done that.

Sharon Parker got one guest to make a cross out of marshmallows and when he proudly showed her that he had done it, she got him to show everyone else. Then along came a winter game and Sharon went over to him but his response was, "I'm not playing any more games!!!" However, curiosity got the best of him and before long; he was leading the pack with the game!!

Our Pastor, Rev. Jill Robinson, supported our efforts and led the sing-a-long, and also helped us to harvest the seed which had been planted some time ago when Pastor Virg was still with us.



For further comments and more pictures, visit our website at www.lebanonumc.net and click on UMW News.

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Nominations Committee

Dianne Allard-Langley,
(Member of Committee)
143 Algonquin Rd
Enfield, NH 03748
603-632-7020



**NH District UMW
Officers for 2012-2013**



A Mission Recognition Pin was presented to Virginia Gerseny by Jennie Young during worship at Wesley UMC, Concord Sunday, March 11, 2012. A surprised Ginny was given a standing ovation by the congregation.

**Membership, Outreach,
Nurture:**

Marge Shea Miner
22 Rundlett St
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-1370
margeshem@comcast.net

Spiritual Growth:

This could be you!!

**Education and
Interpretation:**

This could be you!!

Social Action:

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125 Mascoma St. #23-125
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Program Resources:

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170 Benton Rd.
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Communications

Coordinator:
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Lebanon, NH 03766
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jodiaustin@myfairpoint.net

Help us communicate! Please send your current email address to Sharon Parker at parker.nh@gmail.com or Jodi Austin at jodiaustin@myfairpoint.net so we can reach you with district news. Thank you.

If you have an email address we'd especially like to send **Northern Lights** to you electronically. Not only will this help us be better stewards of our resources but you will receive your copy of Northern Lights in a timelier manner than by US mail.

Please let one of us know if your information is incorrect or you are aware of **someone** not receiving a copy of Northern Lights that should. Your complete & current information is so important. It is costly to have the newsletter returned to us because of an inadequate mailing address.

Thanks for your help!
Jodi Austin, Communications Coordinator

Spring Offering

At every District Meeting we take up an offering. This one is dedicated to the 107 children who are at Cooper Community School in Boston. Founded by the wife of a Methodist pastor, who served the poorest section of the city, Cooper is the only UMW sponsored charity in New England, and its needs are everlasting.

UMCOR Health Kit Supplies for the In-gathering

Our regular "Ingathering" this year will continue the day's emphasis on "our bodies are a temple". We will be collecting items for the health kits which are collected at Hub, a distribution center for UMCOR, which is located in Sunapee.

Please consider gifts from the following list:

- Hand towels 15x25 up to 17x27, wash cloth,
- Comb (large and sturdy, not pocket size),
- Nail file or finger nail clipper (not emery board or toenail clipper)
- Tooth brush (a single brush in its original wrapper),
- Bath size bar of soap. 3oz. and up (Ivory is not preferred)
- Adhesive band-aids,
- 1 gallon plastic bags,
- \$1.00 for Hub's purchase of tooth paste

Your gift may be any number of any of these items. The kits will be packed at the Hub by volunteers who send their thanks to you.

Registration for the NH District Spring Meeting

St. Paul UMC in Manchester, April 14, 2012

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....Email address.....

(Note: The email address will only be used for UMW announcements or newsletters)

Your home church.....

Special dietary needs.....

Is child care needed? Please list names and ages of children.

.....
.....

Please bring a bag lunch for children.

Please enclose \$7.00 fee. Checks and/or money orders are to be made payable to: **NHDUMW** and mailed to: **Peggy Topliff, 242 Church Rd. Pembroke NH 03301.**

Reservation deadline is April 6. Registrations are not refundable after that date.

Increases are negotiable.



Jodi Austin
Communications Coordinator
NH District UMW
97 Hanover Street 504
Lebanon, NH 03766-1074

Return Services Requested

PLEASE POST!

***Congratulations to our 2011
 5-Star Mission Giving Units.***

It is great to have so many units reaching this status in 2011. What does it take to be a 5-Star Unit? Your unit must make a gift in any amount to each of the 5 areas of undesignated giving. They are **Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering.**

When sending your remittances to me, please make the check payable to **NHDUMW**. Once I record your giving, I then send the money to the conference treasurer. Thank you to all the unit treasurers for doing such an outstanding job. May God bless your units and all the work you do in His name.

Blessings,
 Peggy Topliff
 Treasurer

They are:

Grace UMW Canaan, VT	Lebanon UMW Lebanon, NH
Wesley UMW Concord, NH	Littleton UMW Littleton, NH
Hillside UMW Goffstown, NH	St. Paul's UMW Manchester, NH

North Charlestown UMW

North Charlestown NH

North Haverhill UMW

North Haverhill NH

Peterborough UMW

Peterborough NH

Farnham Memorial UMW

Pittsburg NH.

