

LEGACY

We Have the Heart and Heritage for Mission



Central Massachusetts District United Methodist Women

Fall 2011

Message from your President

So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and `your neighbor as yourself". Luke 10:27

When we hear of a new housing development being built in our neighborhood do we wonder "What kind will it be?" or do we say " Oh, That's nice, that will be good for the neighborhood."

As you all know, my family and I moved this past spring. In the six years it took us to sell the property we ran into this. Our neighbors heard through "the grapevine" that there may be 40B housing being built on our property. 40B is the state's affordable housing. Well, the petitions started flying around the neighborhood. It was awful! We were just trying to sell land because taxes were too high for us and BINGO the neighbors got involved. Their thinking was "NIMBY" (Not In My Backyard). The town would not let any developer build on the land unless there were a few affordable housing units. The town needs their quota for the state.

We went to meeting after meeting and listened to the neighbors. I prayed for guidance in this situation. We had planned to stay in our home. It didn't work out so we had to move. We had had enough of certain neighbors (not a very Christian thought but it's the truth). Did they love their neighbor as themselves? They were all about themselves not about what would be the right thing to do for others. Give someone a home they could afford. Oh no, *Not in my backyard*. Are we helping our neighbor find housing or are we NIMBY?

Our Fall Gathering will focus on Housing and Hospitality. Are we hospitable to our neighbor?

Do we let them in? Did the Samaritan woman think twice about being hospitable?

These are questions asked of you. What would **YOU** do?

I hope to see you all at the Fall Gathering in Natick. We will all learn together.

Peace and Love to you all,

Heather M Sykes Busa

President Central Ma UMW

FALL GATHERING: "A PLACE TO LAY THEIR HEADS"

Saturday, October 1st.

Fisk United Methodist Church

Legacy is the Newsletter of the Central Massachusetts District United Methodist Women and is mailed or emailed to Presidents and Treasurers of each unit. If you are no longer the President or Treasurer please pass this along and send us the new name and contact information . Feel free...*actually we encourage you* to copy this, post it, pass it around...the more women that see it the better. If we have your email address we will send you a copy even if you aren't the President or Treasurer. If you would like to receive it by email, send a note to Hannah.Darling@charter.net.

Central District Officers

President

Heather Busa
514 Old Bedford Rd.
Concord, MA 01742
978-369-3400
HMSB51@aol.com

Vice President

Margaret Watson
94 Doyle Road
Holden, MA 01520
508 856-0862
margjkw@aol.com

Treasurer

Vacant

Secretary

Vacant

Communication

Hannah Darling
52 Bentwood Drive
Sturbridge, MA 01566
774 241-0278
Hannah.darling@charter.net

Program Resource

Jana Harrison
494 Pleasant St
Leominster, MA 01453
978-537-6298
jharrison1@verizon.net

Spiritual Growth

Dorothy Openshaw
65 Scenic Dr
Holden, MA 01520
508-829-0468
Nuthatch94@verizon.net

Social Action

Sherry Culver
20 Vernon Rd
Natick, MA 01760
508-651-1876
sherrycd@comcast.net

Member, Nurture & Outreach

Elizabeth Coates
8 Crescent Street
Natick, MA 01760
508-655-1596
jtchimsel@rcn.com

Education and Interpretation

(Vacant)

Nominating Committee

Kristine Paul
73 Chestnut Street
Athol, MA 01331
978 424-7588
krispaul71@hotmail.com

What is your Unit Doing?

This is the question we ask each newsletter. This time we received a response from an individual member asking you to join her.

What are YOU Doing?

I plan to ask women from 3 churches around me (they do not have UMW meetings any more) to come and be part of our UMW day in October. In reaching out I hope I can bring a few Methodist women to our district meeting. I hope others in the district will also reach out to women in the churches near them.

Read a Good Book Lately?

"Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition"
by Christine D. Pohl

The author, Christine D. Pohl, is professor of Christian social ethics at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. In this work, she attempts to revive the Christian tradition of administering to the needs of strangers, refugees, prisoners, and the homeless.

"Hospitality," in Ms. Pohl's vocabulary, does not mean entertaining one's friends at a dinner party. She reminds us of the admonitions of Jesus Christ and Paul the Apostle to minister to those who are in need.

Carefully Ms. Pohl recounts the stories of hospitality contained in both the Old and New Testaments. She quotes Biblical passages directing us to provide for sojourners, refugees, and the displaced from every culture. She describes the practices of hospitality among the early Christians, the converted Romans, and the monks of the Middle Ages. She quotes extensively from writings of Augustine, John Chrysostom, Martin Luther, and John Wesley, all of whom addressed the requirements of hospitality in Christian communities.

Following her historical summary, Ms. Pohl asks the question, "How can we, as Christians, address the needs of the homeless and refugees in our contemporary world?" The response to this question is given on both personal and community levels. Finally, she lists examples of religious communities who successfully provide hospitality today.

"Making Room" is clearly written and well detailed. The work is an excellent basic introduction to a modern Christian approach for following a Scriptural commandment often ignored or forgotten.

Margaret Watson



Spiritual Growth—Outreach

Genesis 15:13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "*Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and will be afflicted for four hundred years.*"

There are many references in the Bible regarding SOJOURNERS. Just what is a sojourner? The dictionary gives the definition as one who is residing temporarily in a brief place of residence. This might be a vacation spot, a business destination, a college dorm, a jail, a healthcare facility, or a refugee camp to name a few. The truth is that we are all sojourners at some time during our lives.

Every year my husband and I become sojourners for about 5 months when we head for camp in Maine. Life is simpler and slower there. We have time to watch the sun paint a million diamonds on the lake in the afternoon, time to watch the hawk fledglings learn to fly and capture their dinner, time to listen to the wind rustle through the pines. When we first settled here 30 years ago, we had no water, electricity, or phone. Our children worried about us. We soon learned that we would never be Mainers (you have to be born here) but we were "naybahs. That entitled us to ask for and give help as needed with no expectation of payment. It also meant having time to talk a bit whenever we had an unexpected encounter. We now have all the things for modern living but we also have our "naybahs." The purpose in coming remains the same "to see the ordinary in a different perspective" and to know how blessed we are.

Not all sojourners are so fortunate. As I listen and watch the plight of the Somalian people, mostly women and children, it is difficult to understand why they must suffer so much. No longer is their land, possessions, or other worldly things important to them. Forced by war and famine, they walk miles in hope of food and shelter. As they go they leave their dead children by the roadside. The fear of death is with them daily. What can we do to love and help these sojourners?

First: Pray for them.

Second: Respect them.

Third: Offer assistance in the best way it can be utilized in this environment.

Fourth: Offer some form of refuge.

Melissa Crutchfield, UMCOR executive for International Disaster Response said "UMCOR is working with partners to act as quickly as possible" Your help is urgently needed. Please give to International Disaster Response UMCOR Advance #982450 and earmark your gift for Horn of Africa Crisis.

Dot Openshaw

UMW Reading Program Keeps Us All Hip!

I sometimes feel as though the world is passing me by and I cannot possibly stay current with the news. What do I know about controversial subjects and/or important causes that might shape the world we live in? How can I possibly carry on a meaningful conversation with someone who is in her/his teen years, 20's, or 30's? I have one answer – by reading the books you'll find at the Program Resources Table at the UMW District gathering this October! These books explore important issues which affect our world and keep you informed. The Program Resources Office has done the hard work of choosing pertinent and meaningful selections of books that span the spectrum from missions, social action, nurturing for community, spirituality and much more. From a study book I learned about Sudan and the struggles within that country and now South Sudan has gained its independence! What's the future of globalization and how does it affect us now – learn about that from a UMW Program Resource book! What's happening in the Middle East – you can read all about it from a UMW Program Resource book! Feeling the need to jump start your prayer life – that will happen once you read one of the UMW Program Resource books!

Come see me at the Program Resource table and find a selection of books just right for you!

Jana Harrison, Secretary of Program Resources

THE FALL GATHERING: "A PLACE TO LAY THEIR HEADS"

The Central District of the United Methodist Women will hold the Fall Gathering on October 1 at the Fiske Methodist Church in Natick.

The title of the gathering, "**A Place to Lay Their Heads**" refers to the need for hospitality in these modern times. As Christians, we are reminded in Scripture over and over again to minister to those in need: refugees, the homeless, and the displaced from every culture.

Our keynote speaker is Representative James O'Day from the Massachusetts State Legislature (Fourteenth District in Worcester). Prior to his election in 2007, Rep. O'Day was a social worker, having earned his bachelor's degree in Urban Studies and Management. He will speak to us on the current critical housing problems in Massachusetts.



Our workshops will present actual situations involving the housing shortage and suggest how we, as Christians and citizens of the Commonwealth, can address these issues. The second workshop will present Scriptural examples of hospitality and demonstrate how those who hosted the needy were blessed for their efforts.

In the afternoon of the Gathering, Habitat for Humanity will make a presentation, showing us how a private, Christian organization is providing housing at reasonable cost for those who could not otherwise own their own homes.

We are asking that you bring an offering for Habitat for Humanity in the form of a gift card from Home Depot, Lowe's, or Worcester Lumber. These are the companies that do business with Habitat for Humanity. The Director is thrilled by the prospect of receiving these donations. The need is great!

Please join us on October 1 in Natick and participate in our Fall Gathering. Note that you do not have to be a member of the United Methodist Women to attend! If you are interested in the theme and wish to know more about contemporary housing problems and how Christians can respond, please join us. Registration materials can be found in this issue of Legacy.

Margaret Watson

From the Treasurer

For those of you wondering where you send your Mission Giving money, it should continue to be sent in to me, the Treasurer for our district, as I continue to hold this position until someone else can be found to take my place. I will continue to pass along those Mission Giving dollars to our Conference Treasurer.

That said, **we have a long way to go to fulfill our 2011 pledge of \$18,000.** I haven't heard from some of our units at all this year. There are just a few months left to 2011 and we have many wonderful ways to celebrate Mission.

Remember to select a person for a Special Mission Recognition just \$40 for the basic pin. Or send a gift in Mission card to someone. These small amounts add up to big mission dollars when combined with dollars from the other units in Central Mass, New England Conference and beyond. Let's make sure that MISSION is alive in Central Mass by supporting it with your giving.

Sherry Culver, Treasurer, 508-651-1876 sherrycd@comcast.net 20 Vernon Road, MA 01760

Fall Gathering

A PLACE TO LAY THEIR HEADS

Saturday, October 1st, 9am - 2pm

Morning Presentation by James O'Day, Worcester State Rep
Followed by Workshops, Habitat for Humanity, Elections,
Music, Fellowship, Book Sale

Fisk United Methodist Church
106 Walnut Street
Natick, MA 01760

Registration Fee \$9 per person (includes lunch)
Deadline September 24th, 2011
In-Gathering: Gift card for Habitat for Humanity

Registration for Fall Gathering

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Church _____

Dependant Care: _____ Adult, Children (number and ages)

Please return to Sherry Culver, 20 Vernon Rd, Natick, MA 01760, 508-651-1876
Make checks payable to Central Mass District UMW.

Fall Gathering Lunch & Program—\$9

Please send registration form and check to Sherry Culver, 20 Vernon Rd, Natick, MA 01760,

Questions about registration – call 508-651-1876

Make check(s) payable to: **Central MA District UMW**

Directions

Fisk United Methodist Church
106 Walnut St
Natick, MA 01760
Registration 9am—Program 9:30—2pm

FROM ROUTE 128: Take Route 9 West exit (Wellesley). Drive West on Route 9 to Route 27 (in Natick) approx. 4-5 miles. Take Route 27 South toward Natick. At the first traffic light (7 Eleven is on the right) turn left onto Bacon Street. Follow Bacon Street to the STOP sign. Turn left on to Walnut Street. You will pass 4 or 5 homes on the left. Fisk Memorial UMC will be on the right.

FROM ROUTE 495: Take Route 9 East Exit (Westborough). Drive through Southboro and Framingham (pass Shopper's World and Natick Mall - Natick Collection on the left) and continue on Route 9 into Natick to the Route 27 South exit. Take exit and follow Route 27 south to the first traffic light (7 Eleven on the right). At this first light, turn left onto Bacon Street. Follow Bacon Street to the STOP sign. Turn left on to Walnut Street. You will pass 4 or 5 homes on the left. Fisk Memorial UMC will be on the right.

FROM MASS PIKE: Take Exit 13. Head toward Natick. After you exit the ramp you will be on Route 30 East. Follow Route 30 (go past Cochituate State Park) continue on until you reach the Route 27 intersection. Turn right (south) and follow Route 27. After a mile or so you will cross over Route 9. Continue to the next traffic light (7 Eleven is on the right). Turn left at the light onto Bacon Street. Follow Bacon Street to the STOP sign and turn left onto Walnut Street. You will pass 4 or 5 homes on the left. Fisk Memorial UMC will be on the right.

Just some general info for newcomers to UMW:

- Recite the purpose of the United Methodist Women at each meeting.
- The Response Moment' we are expected to have at each meeting is just a short report about how our mission funds are spent, not the full article, taken from an article in Response Magazine. One with the 2 striped, interlocking circles in a rectangle.
- The Program Book has lots of interesting programs, but some may not interest your unit. Pick and choose, if you wish. You don't have to use every program in the book. Sometimes, just a part of the program or adapt one to fit your needs.
- The Prayer Calendar lists missionaries and missions from all over the world. Do you have someone in your unit or church who will write notes to some of them?



NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Quincy Community United Methodist Church
40 Beale Street, Quincy, MA 02170
8:30 am-5:00 pm

Missed the 3 day School of Christian Mission? Then this is for you! Choose from below (Please check one)

The Journey (Forgiveness, Restorative Justice, Reconciliation)
 Haiti

Study Leaders: Andrea Courtright and Rev. Garvin Warden

Continental breakfast and literature sales begin at 8:30 am

Please register in advance so that handouts and lunch will be available

Mail to Quincy Community United Methodist Church, 40 Beale St., Quincy MA 02170

Att: Nancy White

Please enclose non-refundable payment of \$45.00 for each registration
(price includes lunch)

Walk- ins \$50.00 Check are payable to UMWSOCM. Total attending _____ \$ _____

The Quincy Church is diagonally across the street from the Red Line Wollaston T station

Name _____ Tel. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ email _____

Church _____ City _____ State _____

You can obtain books in advance from Mission Resource Center at 1-800-305-9857

The Journey \$7.00 Haiti \$10.00

For more information contact Liz Buccella at QCUMC2@comcast.net

Att: Liz, or 617-773-3319 or 617-745-0854

Notes from Cooper...

What or who is Cooper?

We provide Quality Child Care for over 100 urban children each day. We also have 20-25 Afterschool children coming for homework support and care until parents are out of work or training programs.

The Hattie B. Cooper Community Center is one of 100 National Mission sites of the United Methodist Church. It is the only such agency in New England, which makes it "our mission site."

Ours? Yes, yours! Cooper is located in Roxbury—section of Boston. Come for a visit. They are pleased to have United Methodist visit and SEE the programming that we all support.

It is hoped that each church and each UMW will support Cooper each year.

- Make it part of your annual budget process.
- Encourage individuals to pledge monthly or annually
- Watch for Wish List items in Mission Trees
- Plan a trip to see *Cooper in action*
- Support our Fund Raising efforts and events... one opportunity below. Watch for mailings from Cooper. Talk it up at your Mission Committee meetings. Pass the word.
- Plan a mission work day—yard work, painting or reading stories—what suits you best?

If you have not had a program about Cooper, let us know. We'd be glad to present a short program about this important mission site.

Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077 marciahoyt@aol.com



...and other Campbell related products have an educational program to benefit schools—Labels for Education. Cooper only needs the UPC's code...the little set of lines that are scanned for the price.

(This is a change—for years they wanted the front label)

Just take off the UPC code and save them in a large container at your church. Mail them to:

Cooper Community Center
1891 Washington St.
Roxbury MA 02118

...or bring them to a District or Conference UMW meeting.

Spread the word...anyone can help! Tell your co-workers, neighbors, those living in your apartment complex and your relatives.

There are several other popular items also... Goldfish crackers, Pepperidge Farm Cookies, BIC pens and markers, Prego, Swanson products, and Pace Salsa...among others.

Do you like Milano cookies? Those UPC codes count too! Great way to do mission work and eat cookies!



Recently, Cooper used these little UPC codes to buy CD players for EACH classroom and the BIG SCREEN TV for the lobby. They are worth nothing to you and they are worth a great deal to Cooper...when pooled together with others.

Questions: Call Marcia Hoyt
508-655-0077 marciahoyt@aol.com

Hattie B. Cooper Community Center 1891 Washington Street Roxbury MA 02118

Questions? More information? 617-445-1813 www.cooperctr.org

Mission Statement: The Hattie B. Cooper Community Center is committed to providing children and youth with the strongest developmental foundation to inspire a lifelong excitement for learning and the skills to become caring and responsible citizens.

Is your unit a Mission Today Unit?

Your President has a list of programming ideas and expected goals for your unit to strive to meet each calendar year. When you accomplish a certain amount of these—you become either a GOLD, SILVER or BRONZE unit.

Check your list and see how you are doing in this challenge. It is important and makes for a great UMW unit when you work from this list.



How is United Methodist Women Organized?

United Methodist Women, like The United Methodist Church, is a connectional system. The major links of United Methodist Women are:

- The local unit
- The district organization
- The conference organization
- The jurisdiction organization
- The Women's Division

All of these groups relate to one another in a variety of ways. Every level of the organization is involved in mission through the General Board of Global Ministries.

Local and district units report to district organizations, which report to conference organizations. All local units, districts and conferences are located in one of five jurisdictions. The national policy-making organization that relates to United Methodist Women is the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries.

United Methodist Women members also participate in mission in their local communities.



Response: The Voice of Women in Mission.

It's the magazine for every Christian who wants to be part of creating a more peaceful, just world where all people are truly children of God.

Subscribe:

<http://new.gbgn-umc.org/umw/response/subscribe/>

About United Methodist Women

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.

Members raise up to \$20 million each year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world.

The Women's Division is the national policy-making body of this group.

Central Massachusetts District

Hannah Darling
52 Bentwood Drive
Sturbridge, MA 01566

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



Dates to Place on YOUR Calendar

Saturday, September 24	New England Conference School of Christian Mission— Quincy Community United Methodist Church
Saturday, October 1	Central District Fall Gathering Fisk United Methodist Church, Natick, MA
Saturday, October 22	Annual New England Conference UMW Meeting John Street Methodist Church, Camden ME
December 5	Deadline for all monies to be sent to local treasurer
Saturday, March 24, 2012	Spring Gathering---One Day Retreat—Place to be determined