



VERMONT DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A Publication for United Methodist Women

March 2012

Editor: Ginger Phelps

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Each morning when I get up, I get to view the sunrise from my kitchen window or our "green room". What a beautiful view it is, too – the colors are painted by the most famous artist we are lucky to know. The creator has such a desire to start us off on our best foot each morning – things do look better in the morning.

Everyday we have a chance to do good as our maker would have us do in His Name. There are so many chances to do this during our day. May I give a challenge for a fun day? Count the times you smile at a stranger, open a door for someone, say hello to someone, let a car into the mainstream – when you lay down to sleep at the end of the day, and thank God for your day, smile to yourself for all the joy you brought into other peoples' lives. I would bet you lost count. What is greater, the gift you gave or the gift you received?

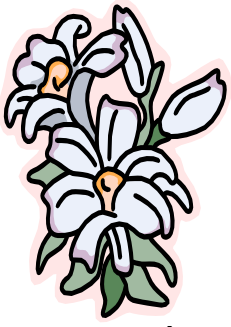
As United Methodist Women, we give the gifts that help other women, youth and children to improve their lives and the circle get larger and larger. And each one of you is part of that circle.

This year there will be gatherings which you are invited to be a special part of – our District UMW Spring Gathering at Brattleboro on April 14th, Northeastern United Methodist Women Quadrennial Meeting in Hershey, PA June 14-16 (close enough to be drivable), School of Christian Education July 27-29 at SNHU Manchester, NH and fall retreat and district meeting to be announced later. Also the South Burlington UMW will be hosting the NE Conference UMW fall meeting on Oct. 20th, 2012. These are great times to meet and greet old friends and make some new ones. Looking forward to seeing you soon – remember to have your smile and your grace.

Sending you smiles and hugs.

Janet W. Powell
District President





Have You Prepared for Easter?

The Lenten season is a time to prepare for Easter. Are you ready to experience the full meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection? Have you been fasting or giving up something that you miss or have you taken on a discipline to help you grow in the love of Jesus?

If you haven't already started, it's not too late. I invite you to make the remainder of Lent an important part of your spiritual journey. Here are a few ideas of how you might grow closer to

Jesus:

- Give thanks each day in prayer.
- Forgive someone.
- Attend all the Holy Week services.
- Visit someone who is homebound or in a nursing home.
- Keep a journal in which you ask questions, note prayer concerns, comment on readings from the *Bible*.
- Skip some meals and instead contribute to a food shelf or UMW mission project.

By taking time for Jesus, you can find new life in Him.

I also invite you to set aside the date of Saturday, September 15, to attend the district Spiritual Growth Retreat. We'll provide more information later about the location and focus of the retreat.

May God bless you in the months ahead.

Carol Jean Sutor, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER



The New England Conference School of Christian Mission
will be held at Southern New Hampshire University,
Manchester, NH
July 27-29th, 2012.

Courses are:

Spiritual Growth - Immigration

Geographic - Haiti

Issue Study - Poverty

Scholarship money is available even for local units. Contact one of the
District officers for more information.



Vermont District
UMW SPRING MEETING

APRIL 14TH, 2012

FIRST UMC

18 Town Crier Dr. , Brattleboro, VT

Exit 3 off I-91

PRESENTER: *LUCI FORTIER*, DEACONESS

“What does a teacher, a smile and an old man have in common?”

Registration: 10am - Closing Worship 2:30pm

Come share in the Fellowship, book browsing and coffee hour.

Cost: \$10 (Includes lunch & morning coffee hour)

Registrar: Ginger Phelps 802-879-7484

e-mail: gingerp46@comcast.net

Registration deadline is: April 5, 2012

Please bring items for the Drop-in-Center

*Examples – socks, soaps, shampoos, tooth brushes/toothpaste,
writing material/ pens & pencils, stamps*

Offering: 50% Drop-In-Center & 50% Undesignated Giving

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CARPOOL

Directions: Take I-89S- merge onto I-91S toward Brattleboro take exit #3 toward US-5/Brattleboro/ VT-9/Keene, NH, merge onto Chesterfield Rd.

At next roundabout take 1st exit onto Putney Rd/US-5/VT-9.

Turn left onto Town Crier Dr. #18 is on the left.

News from your Program Resources Coordinators



No matter what the season, there is always time for reading. Our UMW reading program provides great opportunities to enjoy books about countries and people around the world. I Am Nugood, age 10 and Divorced takes you to Yeman to learn about child marriages to much older men. Beaded Hope takes you on a mission trip to South Africa with 4 women. And what woman could resist Why Women Should Rule the World. These are only a small sample of the great books at our next district meeting.

The 5 categories available in the program are: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. These topics provide endless possibilities for personal growth and learning. Use any book, one from each of the categories (one more than last year) in the 2008 to 2012 reading lists and reading the Response magazine for a year will qualify you for recognition in the program.

To help us celebrate the women who have completed the 2011 Reading Program and what level, please have the names to Pat Howard (802-879-7320), email-pchvt@msn.com or Carol Clark (802-377-8814) email-clark3x@aol.com before April 1st, 2012.

Please join us at the spring meeting in Brattleboro, VT on April 14th to peruse a wide variety of the books offered for 2012. Buy a book to start your 2012 reading program right. We will also offer Program Books, Prayer Calendars, and Brochures on the programs of UMW. If you would like us to order something for you, please contact us at the numbers or addresses above. See you in Brattleboro.

Pat Howard and Carol Clark,
Program Resources Co-Secretaries



YOU CAN HELP!

Cooper Community Center collects the UPC code on cans of Campbell soup. These are redeemed to receive additional classroom materials or recreation equipment. Keep them coming to support this New England Mission Site in Boston. Bring them to District Meetings or send to Cooper Community Center, 1891 Washington St., Boston MA 02118 or to Marcia Hoyt, 8 Bacon St., Natick MA 01760.



Treasurer's Message

Dear Sisters in Christ,

It doesn't seem possible that a year has gone by since writing my first article for the Vermont District Newsletter. I want to thank all the local unit treasurers for submitting your pledges on a regular basis, filing out the Pledge to Mission Form and ensuring that I received your Pledge to Missions by December 1st. That made it much easier for me to make the December 15th reporting deadline to the New England Conference.

I have enjoyed talking with a number of you and hope to talk with more of you as time goes on. Thank you for your patience and nice notes. Thanks to every UMW member for your hard work, and the giving of your time and talents to the United Methodist Women's organization.

I want to once again mention the 5 channels of Mission Giving. It is an honor and an achievement for your UMW group to attain this level of giving. We had a quite a few local units that fulfilled the 5 star of giving. These units will be recognized at our Spring Gathering in April

The 5 channels of Mission Giving are:

1. **Pledge to Mission** – That portion of the unit's budget that it sets as a goal to send through the district, and conference treasurers to the Women's Division.
2. **Special Mission Recognition** – Purchase a Special Mission Recognition Pin or contribute toward the purchase of one. Recognize a special person.
3. **Gift to Mission** – Purchase at least 1 Gift in Mission Card (\$5.00/card). Encourage your unit to buy some for use for birthdays, new babies, congratulations, thanking speakers, contacting shut-ins (Thinking of You), In Service, Christmas.
4. **Gift in Memory** – A gift in memory (minimum of \$5.00).
5. **World Thank Offering** – Gift given in gratitude for God's abundance and in celebration of the joys of life.

Note: Cards are available at the Vermont District Spring and Fall Gatherings or from the district treasurer. The Gift in Memory cards are available free if obtained at a meeting - otherwise postage is charged.

(Refer to the 2009 – 2012 Handbook for further details about **channels of giving**.)

Some of you have asked where your Mission Giving money goes. There is an article in the February **Response** magazine called; "*Where in the World Are Your Mission Giving Dollars*". The article talks about where mission money goes all around the world. God is at work in the world, and we are a part of it!

I wish every UMW Unit a wonderful spring and summer season. May all your events be fun, interesting and successful. May we all be successful at providing support for Women, Children and Youth across America and throughout the world. *May we never stop being grateful for God's grace working in us, through use and our UMW units.*

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, if you need forms or want to buy Gift to Mission cards. Carole Rice, 54 Gail Terrace, Williston VT 05495, 802-879-0185

Blessings,



VERMONT DISTRICT UMW
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THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER

The Northeast Jurisdiction UMW Quadrennial Meeting is being held on June 14-16, 2012 at Hershey PA - Hershey Lodge
The Program begins with worship on Thursday, June 14 at 7pm
We will send forth on Saturday, June 16 at noon
Registration costs include 2 nights lodging at the Hershey Lodge, 3 meals on Friday and Saturday breakfast.

Meals, lodging and meetings will be all under one roof.

Costs: \$560.00 single room
\$350.00 for 2 in a room - \$280.00 for 3 in a room

\$245.00 for 4 in a room

Register online—<http://umw.gbgm-umc.org/nejumw/>

For more information about joining Vermonters attending, contact Janet Powell or Marie Macdougall



