



February 2011

# Mission Voice

of the MO Conference  
United Methodist Women

## Inside This Issue

Della Lamb	2
Legislative Event	2
Program Resources	3
Connecting	3
Mai Gray Charter for Racial Justice Club	4-5
Mabel's Muse	6
Get Involved	6
Social Action Opportunity	6
Mission Today Short Reporting Form	7
Mission Walk	8
Mission Walk Registration Form	8
Don't Forget	8

## The 2011 Missouri Conference UMW Legislative Event is Fast Approaching!

~Rachel Bachenberg, Social Action Chair

United Methodist Women are involved in many areas of Social Action. Regular checking on the UMW web page helps to keep members informed about current areas of action and how to participate in action. This article is being written as CNN is on in the background. "Witnessing a Miracle" speaks of the hopefulness of the healing of a Arizona legislator. As one is hearing the music that was played at the funeral of a nine year old girl born on 9-11 and died last Saturday. It is sad that she has bookends of violence at the edges of her life. The news this week has been filled with the reality of an Arizona law on the books related to helping those in the midst of a mental health crisis...a law that very few seemed to know even existed. This tragedy in Arizona has captured our nation and has caused many to pause about how our communities interact with one another. Discussions about gun violence and mental health are suddenly taking place in many areas that have been silent for awhile. To say that this deadly assault of innocent people in a Safe-way parking lot could have been prevented and it is about time this discussion is taking place. And as UMW, there is a place for us to be part of the discussion. There is another discussion that is suddenly being opened once again. It has been silent and uncomfortable since biblical times. The subject is mental health. It is painful at many levels...within families, communities, and within political discussions. As the preparation has been made for the 2011 Missouri Legislative Training Event in March, there is concern about how the state is dealing with the funding for Mental Health Care. As a nurse who works at a hospital which is next to Western Missouri Mental Health Center, with the TMC parking garage across the

street from the Emergency Room entrance to that facility, it seems that the ER at the hospital is a much busier place. Is it because there are more medical emergencies or that as a society, a mental health crisis is harder to access? As United Methodist Women there is a concern about violence in our society and how we can prevent it. Let's not forget international tragedies, like the "anniversary" of the Haiti earthquake. Both realities that happened last Saturday, remind us that we are citizens of the world and we are called to help all women, children and youth.

## In Memory of Carol Renfro

~Nancy Kincaid

Services for Carol A. Renfro (1947-2011) were held in Kearney, Missouri, on Friday, January 21, 2011. She passed away suddenly on Monday morning, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Carol and her family were long time members of the Kearney First United Methodist Church, where she taught an Adult Sunday School Class.

After her retirement, as a Family and Consumer Science Teacher in the Kearney Schools, Carol became very active in United Methodist Women, attending Schools of Christian Mission, and holding Local, District and Conference Offices. At the time of her passing, Carol was the Missouri UMW Conference Vice President.

A quiet leader, Carol excelled at organization and planning, and her skills were evident in the Annual Meetings and plenaries that she organized at our Conference Events. We will miss her greatly.



The Mission Voice is a bi-monthly publication of the MO Conference UMW. The paper subscription rate is \$5 for the year. To update your address or to subscribe, contact Katie Willis, Editor at:

1568 Highway J  
Wright City, MO 63390  
(636)745-2272  
mrskatiebugs78@centurylink.net

Visit online at:  
[www.moumethodist.org/umw](http://www.moumethodist.org/umw)