

# *Southwest Signal*

May 2020

The Southwest District of Missouri United Methodist Women



**Our Purpose:** 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.

## **Upcoming News & Events:**

June 5-7: As of April 30, **the 2020 Missouri Annual Conference in Springfield has been postponed.** For more info, go to:

<https://www.moumethodist.org/newsdetail/moac-2020-session-postponed-13653781>

July: **Mission U for 2020 has been canceled.**

Date undetermined: Missouri Conference UMW Annual Meeting at Kimberling City, MO

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

President, Paula Ackerson:

We both hope that this finds you all doing well in our ever-changing world. As our leaders make decisions that will determine how we will move into future plans we hope that you find your heart praying for all of our leaders in our churches and our United Methodist Women. In our UMW Handbook there are Biblical Background selections that guide us through those sections. In the section talking about Roles and Responsibilities in the Organization it states: Tabitha was a disciple in the city of Joppa. "She was devoted to good works and acts of charity." (Acts 9:36B)

Widows wept and Peter traveled to mourn the death of this woman mentioned in Acts. She was not only a believer but also a do-er as the mourning widows attested when they showed Peter what she had done for them. We do not know what moved him to do what he did next, but God saw fit to use Peter to raise Tabitha from the dead so that more would believe. Our belief is shown through what we do.

As we look back at the first part of this year we will perhaps see good works and acts of charity that we had time to complete before social distancing became part of our vocabulary. Now we feel like we are floundering a little trying to figure out what we are to do with the rest of this year. We believe and have the need to be a do-er where we are needed yet still protecting those at risk. Speaking out boldly against injustice in our society and working with those hardest hit by this virus.

As you probably figured out by now that some of our activities have been cancelled or postponed for this year and others are being worked on now as this is written.

Mission u has been cancelled for this year.

The Missouri Conference Annual Meeting has not yet been determined on what if anything we can do at the end of September. Please keep our Conference Leaders in prayer as this decision is made.

From there then a decision will need to be made on the District Level on what to do about the District Fall Meeting. Please pray for God to make it clear to us on what we should to do.

One last thought as we sit at home remember even if we can't get out for awhile or able to be out for awhile and then back in at home again later in the year if you are able send a individual contribution or unit pledge to our Treasurer to continue with our Mission where it may be accomplished for Women, Children and Youth.

Stay Safe and Thanks for All that you do . . .

In His Love, Paula

P.S. At our Spring Meeting, Pat Sample noticed that it took us about 20 seconds to state The Purpose of the UMW. So, while washing your hands, if you are tired of counting to 20 or singing Happy Birthday now is a good time to memorize The Purpose and state it while you wash your hands!

In God's service-your presidents,  
Paula Ackerson, [paula64801@yahoo.com](mailto:paula64801@yahoo.com)  
Edith Triplett, [triplettedith@gmail.com](mailto:triplettedith@gmail.com)

---

SW District Treasurer, Kitty Scarborough :

Ladies,

I hope you are all remaining well and safe. An ad on the radio here calls what we are going through now – different times. Yes, they are, but God is still our comfort.

I'd like to repeat a quote from our Conference Treasurer, Liz Rooks, that she placed in our Conference newsletter, The Mission Voice. "As in those situations in which we are left facing unknown, we have to have faith and pray for strength, courage, hope, guidance, and trust in

God's love. We have an awesome God who loves and cares for us deeply and wants us to trust him. Give what you can, as you can, and lay it all in God's hands."

Stay well in these "different times,"

Kitty Scarborough  
[kems75@hotmail.com](mailto:kems75@hotmail.com)

---

Social Action Coordinator, Jane Baker:

In this time of Social Distancing, let us not forget about Social Action as well.

The day before the Capitol in Jefferson City was closed to outside guests in March, approximately 100 UMW members fanned out over the building meeting with state representatives and senators to offer our support of two house bills and two senate bills. As of now, the middle of April, the bills are still sitting in their respective chambers.

**House Bill 1925** removes the death penalty option if a jury cannot decide. It has been substituted with HB 1756. The last action on this was March 12.

**House Bill 1534** concerns parole for offenders 65 years or older who have served 30 years for crimes other than murder in the first degree. No action has been taken on this since January.

**Senate Bill 647** makes reinstating professional licenses for formerly incarcerated persons a possibility. It was last acted upon April 13.

**Senate Bill 519** expands possibilities for expungement of records. The last action taken was in January.

Six steps must take place before any bill goes to the governor for his approval or veto. These steps can take several months. You can read about the bills or the steps on the state website. With the present condition of the health in our state, these bills may not be priority. I'll try to keep you informed!

Stay safe!  
Jane Baker  
[bjbaker513@hotmail.com](mailto:bjbaker513@hotmail.com)

---

Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Carol Bartlett:

Our Spring District Meeting was hosted by Lockwood UMW. Thanks ladies for hosting our meeting and the wonderful lunch. This was about the last event that I attended before we were told to stay home. I know this is a difficult time for all of us, but I hope you are staying safe. At the

spring meeting you found in your packets your Mission Today Goals. I know it is a difficult time to meet these goals. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Mission U for 2020 has been cancelled. A new date for 2021 will be set for Mission U. The 2021 study topics are the Moral Witness of the Church, Pushout, Children's Youth Studies on Violence and Luke 13: New Biblically-based Curriculum.

Let us all pray for healing of the ill and for the families who have lost a loved one. STAY SAFE and together we can do this.

Carol Bartlett  
[jfbartlett@ckt.net](mailto:jfbartlett@ckt.net)

---

Membership Nurture & Outreach, Stephanie Obert:

Hello, Southwest District Ladies!

I am SO glad we managed to get our spring meeting in while it was “legal” to do so. We UMW ladies here at Lockwood enjoyed getting to host the meeting, and it was so good to see all of you there! Remember, it’s time to name that special person from your unit who will be your local Woman of the Year in Mission. The nomination form for submitting is/was in your spring packets. **Please try to get that to me by June 1.** There is someone in your units who deserves to be your Woman of the Year. Let’s celebrate her as the district woman of the year, too!

Here is something to think about now that the weather is finally showing signs of turning to spring:

Plant Your Spring Garden

Three rows of peas

- peace of mind
- peace of heart
- peace of soul

Three rows of squash

- squash indifference
- squash hatred
- squash bullying

Three rows of lettuce:

- let us be kind
- let us be compassionate
- let us love one another

Water with patience and cultivate with love, and your garden will not only survive, it will THRIVE! Hang in there—better days are ahead!

And think about the Apostle Paul—He spent much of his ministry “quarantined” in prison -- our house arrest -- and yet his correspondence with sisters and brothers in Christ yielded nearly half of the New Testament. The gospel is never bound, and hope is alive! (taken from *God’s Armour*).

See you all in the fall!

Stephanie Obert  
[antique@keinet.net](mailto:antique@keinet.net)

---

Historian, Edith Triplett:

We made our own history squeezing our District Meeting in before things started to get shut down. We had a wonderful day in Lockwood. God surely blessed us that day. The history of UMW continues even if we cannot really be out and about. Our funding continues to help in places we may not readily recognize. Our focus on women, children and youth with programs continues on and continues to be a blessing in many ways. Send any pictures or articles to me, please. Also, keep the Legacy Fund in your prayers and givings. The Fund continues thru 2020.

Stay well,  
Edith Triplett  
[triplettedith@gmail.com](mailto:triplettedith@gmail.com)

---

Letter from Erica Skouby:

Dear UMW ladies,

It was an honor to receive the UMW District First Timer Scholarship to the Legislative Event this year. Attending this Event had been on my bucket list for many years. I will be honest with you and say that I had always wanted to take a tour of the State Penitentiary too so that was the deciding factor. God works in Mysterious Ways because after sitting through the workshops and studying the bills that UMW are supporting now, and visiting the Capitol building, the tour of the Penitentiary became so much more meaningful. It was more than a "tourist attraction" that I had always wanted to see. It became very real and very easy for me to place myself in the shoes of women who have been there, yet in so many ways I cannot imagine that journey. I learned so much from hearing Jeanette Mott Oxford, Executive Director of EMPOWER MISSOURI, speak on the bills that UMW was seeking support for and the impact they would have on those coming out of prison. We had lively discussion on the

impacts of Living Wages (pros and cons), Maternal Mortality, Just Energy for All, and Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline. A UMW event never fails to educate me on how uneducated I am about some things! UMW events never fail to bring to light something I should be paying attention to or working harder to make a difference on. UMW events never fail to stretch me in ways I sometimes don't want to be stretched and UMW events never fail to make me evaluate and re-evaluate why I believe the way I do and am I right or maybe I should rethink an issue.

So.....ladies.....THANK YOU for sending me this year. If you have not attended a Legislative Event, I would encourage you to apply for the scholarship, or just go with a friend. There were ladies that had "been there and done that" before and they helped all of us First Timers get to where we needed to be and do what we needed to do. There was so much encouragement and fellowship.....but then, that is what we do! We live THE PURPOSE!

Erica Skouby  
[ericaskouby@gmail.com](mailto:ericaskouby@gmail.com)

---

#### Communications Dori Helms:

Thought you might enjoy this story:

Scottish pastor John McNeill told a story from his childhood about walking home one night. "It was nearly midnight when I started to tramp six or seven miles down through the lonely glen to get home. The road had a bad name. This particular night was very black, and two miles outside our little village the road gets blacker than ever. I was just entering the dark defile when, about one hundred yards ahead, in the densest of the darkness, there suddenly rang out a great, strong, cheery voice, 'Is that you, Johnny?' It was my father—the bravest, strongest man I ever knew.

Many a time since, when things have been getting black and gloomy about me, I have heard a Voice greater than that of my earthly parent cry: "Fear not, for I am with thee".

We often need someone to call our name in the darkness to encourage us. Our God uses various means to encourage us. He uses His word. He uses His spirit. He uses the writings of others. But he also uses people. Someone is on a gloomy road today. Can you call their name in the dark? Can you be an encouragement for them?

If you have suggestions, corrections or recommendations for me, please e-mail them, with a subject line of SW Signal, to [doriah@joplin.com](mailto:doriah@joplin.com).

Dori

Quoted from Internet article by Martha Noebel: HOPE IS REAL!

“Psalms 39:7 *“But now, Lord, what do I look for: My hope is in you.”*”

Romans 5:5 *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”*

*Pray out loud the words of hope into your life and your situations. I have hope! My hope is in the Lord! I will be strong and wait on the Lord. I trust God with my life and the life of my family. Speak these words every day. Hope is real! It comes from God. He has placed it in your heart.*

*Hope is real, just try it.”*

### UMC DISTRICT MAP

