



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Southeast District United Methodist Women

# THE SOUTHEASTER

March 2018

Volume 20 Issue 1

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1- Greetings from Fay
- 2-5 Officer Reports
- 5-Mission u in the Spring
- 6 Spring Meeting Registration
- 7 District Calendar

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## Greetings from Fay

I once had a Sunday School teacher who would keep close attendance on who was in church and who was absent. If you had missed church, the following Sunday, he would come up to you and would say "Life's better when we stay connected. Where were you last Sunday?" I shall never forget him. Incidentally, he had an identical twin brother who was the teacher for another one of our Sunday School classes in this country church where we lived. I can't help but wonder if his twin brother used this same question when one of the members, in the class he was teaching, missed Sunday School.

United Methodist Women, has this not been one of the coldest winters that you can remember? We had only one small snow to have to clean off of our driveways. This made me recall another event in my life. When I was in college I had to write an essay on "Too Cold to Snow!" That was a difficult topic for me to write at that time. However, living through this past winter, I believe it would be much easier for me to compose. I could tell about my frozen pipes to my sprinkling system.

This whole past year has been difficult with the flooding, brush fires, tornados and now the March wind! Do you think God is trying to tell us something?

The UMW Legislative training event is presently in session. We have three women from our Southeast District who are in attendance. On March 23-24 will be the Conference Mission Team meeting and then on April 7, we will be having our Southeast District Spring meeting at the Van Buren United Methodist Church. Remember, the flood of April 30, 2017 that devastated their community? Businesses, churches and homes were totally flooded and destroyed. The program will consist of speakers who lived and worked through this horrible experience. Sisters, please plan to be in Van Buren for our Spring meeting.

Then on April 13-14, there will be a Spring MISSION u held in Farmington. I hope it is successfully attended.

United Methodist Sisters, we are starting off without a full Mission Team. If you are interested, or someone you know would be interested, in serving on the Mission Team, contact Julie Combs at 573-204-1701. God willing, it will be complete at our spring meeting.

**Please make copies  
of this newsletter  
to share with your  
group.**

God's blessings,  
Fay Biggs  
[fbiggs@semo.net](mailto:fbiggs@semo.net)

## Spiritual Growth Coordinator - Doris Dace

At our worship service before Christmas, our bulletin had the liturgist saying, “The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence, but for the awareness of God’s loving gift to us in the gift of the Christ child.”

I tried really hard after that, but my mind kept spinning around the use of the wrong spelling for presents. I believe the time is now here—not approaching—for our presence. Where is your presence needed? Church is, of course, the obvious place. Church attendance feeds us and keeps us strong spiritually. It also makes a statement to others that worship is important.

For us in UMW, our presence at meetings and activities is crucial. Again, it speaks to others about what we value.

We have opportunities in the next few months to be present with other women to strengthen our bonds. Spring meeting is April 7, and Day Apart is June 23. Put these on your calendar, and make it a priority to attend.

The present for your presence is being part of a great fellowship.  
(The kits for our Day Apart craft are ready and waiting!)

Doris Dace

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

## Mission Ribbon Coordinator - Shirley Patterson

March is here. It must be time to think about Mission Ribbons for ourselves and others. Fortunately the ribbons are inexpensive, ranging from 25 cents to \$5.00. There are a few large ones that cost more.

We don’t have to wait for someone else to give us a ribbon. We can purchase our own—as many do—while attending UMW events locally, in our districts, states and this year on the national level at the UMW ASSEMBLY in Columbus, Ohio from May 18-20. (Some will go a day early for Ubuntu Day, a time to do working projects before the meeting starts.)

When we’re wondering what to do to comfort someone, honor children, show appreciation, send congratulations—it helps to have some extras on hand. We do have a few Mom’s ribbons. Call me. Our computer has continued “acting up” and won’t accept e-mails.

Shirley Patterson, 113 Franks Lane, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 573-334-7691

## Membership/Nurture/Outreach - Carrie Ann Hippler

With Spring Meeting comes the presentation of this year’s District UMW Woman of the Year Award. Special thanks to those of you who nominated ladies to be considered for the award. Since only one can win, please don’t be disappointed, if the person you nominated isn’t selected. We have many deserving ladies in this district.

I am looking forward to seeing a good turnout at the Spring Meeting. The ladies of the Van Buren unit need to be encouraged after their lovely new church was flooded last year. It is difficult to come back after a natural disaster.

Hoping to see you there,

Carrie Ann Hippler, Membership, Nurture and Outreach

## Social Action - Adelaide Parsons

### Priorities of Social Injustice for the UMW March, 2018

#### ***Priorities of the Social Action Team***

The United Methodist Women have identified four priorities for the Social Action Team for the 2016-2020 Quadrennium. They are (1) Criminalization of Communities of Color (Interrupt School to Prison Pipeline), (2) Economic Inequality (Adopt legislation in states/localities that build the base for a living wage), (3) Climate Justice (Reduce carbon footprint emissions of corporations and individuals), and (4) Maternal and Child Health (Decrease Maternal Mortality; Develop a Network of Women's Health Advocates for access to health care and education).

Each Unit is asked to provide one program per year on one of these injustices. An explanation of our scriptural and Policy Basis for these four priorities can be found at

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/service-advocacy> Program suggestions and materials for each topic are offered at the site. Just follow the links!

#### ***Why does the UMW choose to address Social Injustices?***

United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy: "***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.***"

United Methodist Women has been challenging social injustice for almost 150 years. Members improve the lives of women, children and youth nationally and internationally. United Methodist Women continues its advocacy work on peace and justice, education, the rights of children, human rights, and farm workers' rights, to name a few.

In all advocacy efforts United Methodist Women supports its work with a scriptural basis and adheres to the denominational mandates in the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Women works in partnership with coalitions on many justice issues to extend its reach.

Adelaide Parsons, 3120 Independence, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703; 573-339-8521

### **Bernetta Lea Davis—Vice President**

I want to thank those who prayed for me during my unexpected illness this winter. Thanks be to God, I am much better.

During that time, Gail Cox and Adelaide Parsons worked very hard to put the speakers for the next meeting in place. Presidents please encourage your members to attend this meeting. It will be a way to support Gail and her town and her church. Finally all of our offices have been filled, except we still could use 2 more members for the nomination committee.

I look forward to seeing you in April.

Bernetta (Lea) Davis V.P.

## Julie Combs—Nominations

Dear Friends,

I am the nominations chairperson and am asking you to be thinking of possible ladies to become officers next year. We've got to all pull together to keep UMW going. Presidents--look at your membership and think about and encourage ladies to take an office. We will need a president, treasurer, social action, education and interpretation, membership, nurture, and outreach plus people to serve on nominations. Send me names and contact information of any possibilities.

Julie Combs, 2639 Brittany Drive, Jackson, MO 63755, 572-204-1701

## Education & Interpretation - Mary Klaproth

Greetings to everyone,

I want to thank the UMW units that mailed in their completed Mission Today Reports. I still have a few units that did not respond in their reports. All the units that mailed in their reports will receive a certificate at the Spring District meeting to be held at the United Methodist Church in Van Buren on April 7.

Please mark your calendars for the 2 day Mission u to be held at the First United Methodist Church in Farmington on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for persons to attend who can't commit to the four day Mission u held in Fayette on July 26<sup>th</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Also, mark your calendars for the four day Mission u to be held on the campus of Central Methodist University on July 26<sup>th</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup>. The topics offered are a repeat of Missionary Conferences. The new topics to be offered include Spiritual Growth, Embracing wholeness and Earth perspective for covenantal living and the social action session. What about our money, a faith response will be offered. This is a great event that you don't want to miss.

I want to encourage members to attend Assembly to be held in Columbus, Ohio on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This is an awesome event that I don't want to miss and you shouldn't want to miss it either. The Assembly is held every four years in various locations around the United States. We are fortunate it is close enough to drive to in one day. United Methodist Women from all over the world attend this event. It is very inspiring. There will probably be from 8,000 to 9,000 women at the Assembly.

I hope to see you at the Spring District Meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings,

Mary Klaproth, Education and Interpretation Coordinator  
153 Grandview Drive, Jackson, MO 63755

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New McKendree UMW members with baked items for the bake sale. No one bakes better than UMW members! There were more baked items not on the picture. The profit from the bake sale was over \$900.00 to be used for UMW projects.

## Mission u in the Spring—April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Memorial UMC, Farmington, MO

Just to our north is the Spring Mission u in mid April at Farmington, MO. The registration deadline is **March 15**, leaving little time to contemplate what to do. The registration fee is **\$55**, which includes Friday evening dinner and Saturday lunch.

Topics to be covered at this event are “Living in a Covenant Community” and the “Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States.” According to online posting, these are open to men as well as women.

To access the registration form and flyer, as well as more details, visit <https://www.moumethodist.org/unitedmethodistwomen>.

This event is sponsored by the Missouri Conference United Methodist Women.

*Southeast District UMW*  
***Spring Meeting***

*April 7, 2018*

*Van Buren United Methodist Church*

*201 Sycamore Street*

*Van Buren, MO 63965*

*Recognition of Southeast District 2018*

*Woman of the Year in Missions*

*Program:*

*A River Ran Through Us*

Registration & morning refreshments at 9:30 am

Meeting begins at 10:00

Lunch \$8.00

**Please pre-register by March 31 to:**

Gail Cox

HCR 2 Box 2124A

Van Buren, MO 63965

573-225-6557

[gaildiannecox@yahoo.com](mailto:gaildiannecox@yahoo.com)

Directions: Turn right on James Street from highway 60 (second entrance to Van Buren). Van Buren UMC is the first building on the left, on the corner of James and Sycamore Street.

Please give your unit, number attending, a contact person and phone number.

# Southeast District Calendar: 2018

March 23-24	Program, Finance and Mission Team Committee meeting—Columbia, MO	
April 7	Southeast District Spring Meeting – Van Buren UMC	
April 13-14	Spring Mission u – Farmington, MO	
May 1	Newsletter deadline	
May 17-20	UMW Assembly – Columbus, Ohio	
June 23	Day Apart—New McKendree, Jackson	
July 26-29	Mission u at Central Methodist University – Fayette, MO	
August 1	Newsletter deadline	
August 10-11	Program, Finance and Mission Team Committee meeting—Columbia, MO	
Sept. 23-24	MO UMW Annual Meeting –Kirksville, MO (District officer training will be on Friday)	
Oct 6	Sharefest at Dexter UMC	
Sept. 15	Fall Meeting / Mini School – Grace UMC, Cape Girardeau	
Sept. 28-29	Conference UMW Annual Meeting – Poplar Bluff	
Nov 15	Newsletter deadline	
Nov 17	Southeast District Mission Team Meeting, Sikeston First	
Dec 15	Final pledges due to District treasurer	
Dec 31	Reports due 12-31-2017: Mission Today Report Green Team Report	Mai Gray Report Unit Officer Report

[www.moumethodist.org/unitedmethodistwomen](http://www.moumethodist.org/unitedmethodistwomen)

Program resources:<http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products>

UMW: <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>

*The Southeaster*  
*A Publication for the Southeast District of*  
*Missouri United Methodist Women*

Gail Cox  
HCR 2 Box 2124A  
Van Buren, MO 63965

*“ . . . Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood;  
never will there be a flood to destroy the earth. ”*

*Genesis 9:11*

*“Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in  
the clouds, I will remember **My covenant** between me and you and all  
living creatures of every kind.” *Genesis 9:14-15.**