



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

# Mission Tapestry

Arlington District United Methodist Women

Vol. XXXII, No. 1

February 2011

## PURPOSE of the United Methodist Women

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.

The Mission Tapestry is a publication of the Arlington District United Methodist Women. Its goal is to keep units at the local/ congregation level informed about opportunities for living out our PURPOSE. It is published quarterly and mailed to all unit leaders, pastors, former Arlington District Presidents, and Virginia Conference UMW leaders. All articles for publication should be directed to ArlingtonDistrictUMW@gmail.com.

## District President's Message

Welcome 2011!

For many of us, this year brings new jobs and responsibilities for United Methodist Women. Exciting and occasionally challenging times ahead. And hopefully LOTS of fun. I look forward to meeting many of you, and seeing familiar faces at our events this year.

I, too, start a new job in UMW this year, as District President. I want to take a brief opportunity to introduce myself. My home church is Mt. Olivet, in Arlington. I've been attending there for over 25 years. In fact, my husband and I met at Mt. Olivet. I've been active in my UMW fellowship off and on over many of those years, as we banded, disbanded, and reformed. My job at the unit level was as Mission Coordinator for Social Action. As I completed my term, I was asked to serve at the District level as Social Action

coordinator, which I did for the past 4 years. I enjoyed that position, having the chance to explore with you the many topics of Social Justice, with which we as Methodists concern ourselves.

I now take on the position of President with excitement, and some trepidation. It's a chance to continue well-loved events, and perhaps explore new ones. Opportunities to work with energetic and committed women abound. I look to you for help and ideas. Together we have a great year ahead of us. See you in April for our Spring Prayer Breakfast, and in June for our Day Apart, held jointly with the Alexandria District.

Please contact me with ideas, thoughts, and concerns. I look forward to hearing from you. And I once again wish to appeal to you to join us on the team as Vice-President, Secretary, or Tapestry Editor.

Let's have a great year!

*Karen McElfish*

President  
Arlington District  
United Methodist Women

### NEW LOGO

Notice the new logo for United Methodist Women. This was adopted at Assembly and is now the only one to be used in our publications. We are no longer to use any other logo for United Methodist Women. The words must accompany the logo. You may not use only the cross and flame.

## Vice President

**Open**

The Vice President is responsible for planning and implementing programs. This position is currently open. WE NEED YOU!

## Secretary

**Open**

The Secretary keeps accurate minutes of all meetings of the district, serves as custodian of all records and official papers, and keeps an accurate roll of local units and elected leaders. This position is currently open, too. WE NEED YOU!

## Treasurer

**Mary Williams**

CONGRATULATIONS to all units.

Arlington District UMW met our Pledge to Mission Giving (undesignated) for 2010. Our Pledge was \$35,000. Our totals were as follows:

Undesignated Giving	\$35,805.57
Designated Giving	<u>16,090.93</u>
Total Mission Giving	\$51,896.50

Great Work!

Congratulations also go to the 5- and 6-Star Mission Giving units. There were 7 units who earned the Six-Star Mission Giving Award. They are Dulin UMW, Friendship UMW, Great Falls UMW, Herndon UMW, Oakton UMW, Sleepy Hollow UMW, and Wesley UMW. One unit, Mt. Olivet UMW, earned a Five-Star Mission Giving Award. Thank you for all your efforts. Keep up the good work.

I have information on 2 new areas of giving, Rainbow Giving and 80%-20% Giving. As soon as I have the names and addresses for all the unit treasurers, I will mail this information to those who did not attend Training Day.

Thanks to everyone for all you do.

*Mary Williams*

District Treasurer



## Spiritual Growth

Ruth Mulkey

As always Training Day was a great opportunity to get together with Arlington District UMW members. Being a District Officer can be a real blessing and I am grateful for the chance to serve God through this dedicated group of women.

Our next District Event is Spring Prayer Breakfast, which is coming up Saturday, April 9. I am pleased to announce that our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Teresa Smith. Last year we had planned to have Teresa lead our Spiritual Life Retreat at VUMAC, but weather, and low registration forced us to cancel that meeting.

Having worked with Teresa to develop that weekend, I was looking forward to hearing her message and was disappointed when our plans could not be carried out. But now we have a second opportunity to meet Teresa and share a special time together with her. A comment concerning her work reads: "Smith inspires hope. She has a way of sharing her past so that others learn how they too can find peace."

In designing the program for our Prayer Breakfast, Dr. Smith is asking that members of our district take certain scriptures and find ways to illustrate them on posterboard. It would be lovely if the verses were taken to children, special needs adults, ordinary people and/or artists in our churches. I will be contacting churches about this project, and I look forward to the artwork which will give an added dimension to our worship that day.

### ARTWORK SCRIPTURES:

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.*

John 20:26 *A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said "**Peace** be with you."*

Psalms 85:10 *Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and **peace** kiss each other.*

Isaiah 55:12 *You will go out in joy and be led forth in **peace**; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you and all of the trees of the field will clap their hands.*

Isaiah 54:13 *All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their **peace**.*

Proverbs 17:1 *Better a dry crust with **peace** and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.*

Leviticus 26:6 *I will grant **peace** in the land and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid.*

John 14:27 ***Peace** I leave with you, my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

*Ruth*

P.S. I have a program on Prayer which I would be glad to share with a fellowship or unit.

Ruth Mulkey

703-524-1776 or [RMulky@aol.com](mailto:RMulky@aol.com)

## Membership Nurture and Outreach

Open

The Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach plans for the organization of new units, nurtures existing units, recommends ways for members to participate fully, and provides regular creative fellowship activities for the district officers. This position is currently open also. WE NEED YOU!

## Education and Interpretation

**Linda Arsenault**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as we begin a new year as partners in God's mission. I challenge and encourage every unit to become a Mission Today unit. Your unit's mission Education and Interpretation coordinator should have the Mission Today form at each meeting to make sure the unit stays on task in achieving Mission Today status. No changes were made to the Mission Today form for 2011 so you may use last year's form, changing 2010 to 2011.

Four goals of mission are:

1. To make disciples of Jesus Christ,
2. To strengthen, develop, and renew Christian congregations and communities,
3. To alleviate human suffering, and
4. To seek justice, freedom and peace.

As your units plan activities and projects for the coming year, please keep these goals in mind and how fulfillment of the UMW purpose can work toward these goals. In making and meeting a

pledge to mission your unit helps fund UMW projects that help to alleviate suffering, seek justice, freedom, and peace around the world. If your unit is small, hold fundraisers to meet your pledge to mission. Some restaurants such as Applebee's and Chili's are very supportive of charitable organizations. The restaurant will donate pancakes, for example, and your group provides the drink and sets the charge per person. You might want to check other restaurants in your area as to how they might support your project. Some will donate a percentage of their sales on a given date during a set time frame. You can collect the Campbell's soup labels and postage stamps to earn money for mission. These are just a few ideas and I'm sure you have some good ideas as well. Please come to the Arlington District UMW events and share your successes with other units as "a creative, supportive fellowship" and "expanding concepts of mission."

Also, please remember our missionaries and mission

workers. By writing to them and praying for them you are encouraging and strengthening Christian communities. This is an easy item from the Mission Today form. The UMW prayer calendar has the addresses of our missionaries and mission workers. The address listing can also be found on the United Methodist Church website.

I hope I have given you some food for thought. We have a purpose and working together we can achieve our goals. Hope to see you at the Spring Prayer Breakfast at Pleasant Valley. Keep up your good work!

Blessings,  
*Linda*

## VUMAC Representative

**Open**

Over 20,000 individuals visit Blackstone and the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) each year, drawn by the desire to connect with others on their journey and to strengthen their faith. And faith is passed on - more than 2,000 youth representing numerous denominations schedule their annual retreats at Blackstone each year. The facility does not have the capacity to meet the ever-increasing demand. Nearly 4,000 people are turned away due to constraints in meeting space or sleeping accommodations. VUMAC has some big expansion plans. This is an important time to be involved but this position is also currently open. WE NEED YOU!

## Communications Coordinator

**Open**

The Communications Coordinator publicizes activities of UMW, and serves as the editor of the district UMW newsletter. This position is currently open. WE NEED YOU!

**VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
**MISSION TODAY 2011**

**September 1, 2010-August 31, 2011 Report Form for Units**

The purpose of Mission Today is to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women by energizing UMW to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action; increasing contacts between units and mission workers and projects; encouraging use of mission resources; expanding concepts of mission including social justice as mission.

*Mission Today is not a new program. It is putting increased emphasis on what UMW has been doing for more than a century.*

**(\*\*) 1. Make and meet our Pledge to Mission.**

**Your attendance is requested:**

- (\*) 2. At least two members, other than a District or conference officer, attend  
The District or Conference Annual Meeting.
- (\*) 3. One member other than a Conference or District officer attend the  
Conference Spiritual Life Retreat or a District Spiritual Life Event.
- ( ) 4. Have at least one member attend the United Methodist Day at the Virginia General Assembly.
- ( ) 5. Have at least one member attend UMW Day at Ferrum College.
- (\*) 6. Have at least one member other than a Conference or District Officer attend  
The Conference School of Christian Mission at Blackstone or a District Mission Celebration.
- (\*) 7. Sponsor a young woman to attend the Conference or a District Young Women's Event.

Name of event attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your participation in programs on the UMW:**

- (\*) 8. Use the Prayer Calendar at each Unit Meeting to pray for mission workers and mission projects for women, children, and youth.
- (\*) 9. Use at least two programs from the UMW program book during the year.  
Which ones \_\_\_\_\_
- (\*) 10. Each unit, Circle, or Subgroup include a "Response Moment" where an item from Response magazine is lifted up as a way to tell a mission story.
- (\*) 11. The Unit, Circle, Subgroup, Etc. have at least one Mission study from the  
School of Christian Mission during the year. Which one \_\_\_\_\_

**Your action in supporting the Purpose of the United Methodist Women:**

- (\*) 12. Include having the UMW Purpose at every meeting.
- (\*) 13. Qualify as a Five-or Six Star Unit by contributing to five or six channels of Mission Giving
- (\*) 14. Increase the local unit Pledge to Mission for the coming year.
- (\*) 15. Invite a District or Conference Officer, other than a member, to one of your Unit meetings during the year and/or United Methodist Women's Sunday.
- (\*) 16. Select a mission project which is supported by funds from the Women's Division or the Mission Project Grants of VA and visit and/or contribute needed resources. Name of project \_\_\_\_\_

- (\*) 17. One or more members participate in hands-On mission such as gleaning, bagging potatoes, working in a food pantry or clothes closet, etc.
- ( ) 18. Provide at least ten UMCOR kits and funds for shipping for the VA Annual Conference
- ( ) 19. Members shall write at least once a year to five Persons-in-Mission listed in the Prayer Calendar.
- (\*) 20. Add at least two new members to the roll or one new member for Units with 15 or less members.
- (\*) 21. Have at least two members who subscribe to Response Magazine.
- (\*) 22. At least two members participate in the Reading Program and complete Plan I.
- ( \*) 23. Have "Green Meetings" or make some other special effort toward saving God's earth (i.e. recycling, using glasses instead disposable cups, etc.)  
Describe what you did \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) 24. Have at least one person join the UMW's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information.
- (\*) 25. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice Polices in at least one way during the year.  
Describe what you did \_\_\_\_\_
- (\*) 26. Support the Campaign for Children (Children's Sabbath Service, support public education, etc.)  
Describe what you did \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) A MISSION TODAY UNIT: Completed the first required item (\*\*), PLUS eight additional items including four (\*) items, or for Units with 15 or fewer members, completed the first required item (\*\*) and a minimum of four of the other items including two of those marked with an (\*)
- ( ) A MISSION TODAY SILVER UNIT: Completed the first required item (\*\*), PLUS thirteen additional items including at least six (\*) items.
- ( ) A MISSION TODAY GOLD UNIT: Complete the first required item (\*\*) PLUS 20 additional items, including at least 12 (\*) items.

Unit/Church \_\_\_\_\_

President/Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\*Submit to your District E&I coordinator at the date specified in your district (in early Sept 2011)

"District reports are due by Oct. 1, 2011 to Conference E&I.

# Secretary of Program Resources

Frances Ellis

The entire program of United Methodist Women focuses on mission. The mission initiatives include:

- Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equipping women & girls to be leaders
- Providing transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth & flexibility
- Working for justice through service and advocacy

As Secretaries of Program Resources, we support these initiatives by promoting the Reading Program which offers thought-provoking books for reflection and discussion, by promoting the reading of *Response* magazine and the use of its articles and bible studies at events, and by providing books and other publications that educate members on spiritual growth, social issues, and geographic areas.

Here are some ideas for your unit to organize and promote the Reading Program.

- Form an action team to take action on an issue addressed in one or more books.
- Start a reading group of adults and/or children or youth.
- Present book reviews of Reading Program books at unit and circle meetings.
- Take Reading Program books and *Response* to retirement and nursing homes and read regularly to residents.
- Inform parents, grandparents and others with children and youth that books for children and youth are available through the Reading Program.
- Let pastors, church leaders and Sunday school teachers know of the books available through the Reading Program.
- Highlight large print books to include a wider variety of readers.

Promoting *Response* magazine, **The Voice of Women in Mission** and *New World Outlook*, **The Mission Magazine of The United Methodist Church**

*Response's* dynamic articles and photographs tell the mission story of United Methodist Women and stir readers to solidarity and action with women, youth and children of the world. The magazine carries a message of faith and hope, and a call for response to the reign of God. It is 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.

- Want to see the world?
- Searching for meaning in life?
- Overwhelmed by folks who don't care?
- Concerned about neglected children?
- Committed to mission?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, *Response* is for you. Monthly Bible studies, stories of faith, and mission opportunities are just part of what you'll find in *Response*. This magazine will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind.

*New World Outlook* connects local churches to the mission work of the General Board of Global Ministries. The magazine suggests avenues for becoming involved in outreach, support, and even hands-on help. Get in touch with your mission roots.

What are some things that you have tried in your unit that have worked well that you would like to share with others?

## Nominations Chair

Roberta Spence

The low attendance and discussions in our training day session on Membership Nurture and Outreach, and Nominations highlighted the fact that we have not given this area enough attention. Our sagging membership in some units and lack of units in many churches further supports this issue. A lack of energized discipleship is a major factor. As a leader responsible for reaching out to our sister units, I can see where major improvements are warranted. As current chair of the nominations committee, I am faced with the daunting task of filling numerous vacant positions.

My goal for the coming year is to establish a nominations committee. A most immediate goal is to fill all vacant positions. I have begun contacting each unit both in person and through email, mail, and phone.

Unfortunately, our recently elected officer in charge of Membership Nurture and Outreach has resigned, and I will be adding that position to the other vacant ones to fill. In the meantime, I will be taking charge of that particular position and adding it to those required of me as chair of nominations as I meet and speak with the various units in our district.

We are failing to properly embrace potential new members in some of our units. Some existing new members feel shut out by the existing guard. Spiritual guidance and activity is lacking in units that serve mostly as "friendship circles." New members are fearful of "stepping on the toes" of existing unit leaders and members, but feel there is a lack of spiritual nourishment. In certain units, circles are discouraged, opting instead to only have unit meetings. There is some concern that there are untried forms of bringing in new members, especially young adults (both parents and singles).

Thus, as can be seen, my goal is to be more energized during the coming year and bring a stronger focus on the change, and to fill currently vacant district officer positions of: vice-president, secretary, membership nurture and outreach, and editor of the Tapestry.

Blessings,  
*Roberta Spence*  
 703-486-1327  
 pastm1prime@yahoo.com

## Social Action

Gladys Packett

**On Saturday, March 12, Sydenstricker United Methodist Women will host an important event on Human Trafficking. Men and women are invited to attend. Please join us for what promises to be an enlightening presentation on this critical concern and spiritual journey.**

**"Hidden Lives: Never Out of God's View... Our Christian Response to Human Trafficking"** will be presented by **Rachel Bachenberg**, currently Missouri Conference Coordinator for Social Action. Rachel is also a member of the Women's Division Human Trafficking Task Force. A dynamic and energetic speaker, she will not only speak to the alarming statistics and circumstances of human trafficking, but the Biblical approach as well.

**RSVP by March 5** is desired to have an adequate headcount for the breakfast. RSVP to the church office 703-451-8223.

**Childcare** will be available for nursery ages 0-2, and 3-10, if registered through the church office 703-451-8223.

8 - 9 AM Breakfast in Hottle Hall

9 AM - Noon -- Seminar program

Location: Sydenstricker UMC, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield, VA 22153

See attached flyer on page 11 for more information.



# Arlington District United Methodist Women

<b>PURPOSE</b> of the United Methodist Women	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
<p>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.</p>	<b>Arlington District UMW Spring Prayer Breakfast @ Pleasant Valley UMC</b>	<b>April 9, 2011</b>
	Virginia Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat @ VUMAC	May 13-15, 2011
	UMW Day @ Ferrum College	June 4, 2011
	<b>Arlington and Alexandria District UMW Day Apart @ TBA</b>	<b>June 11, 2011</b>
	Virginia Conference Annual Conference @ Roanoke	June 15-19, 2011
	Virginia Conference UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference @ Roanoke	June 2011
	School of Christian Mission @ VUMAC	July 21-24, 2011(weekend) July 25-28, 2011 (week)
	Wesley Seminary Learning @ Washington, D.C.	September, 2011
	<b>Arlington District UMW Annual Meeting @ TBA</b>	<b>September 17, 2011</b>
	Virginia Conference UMW Young Women's Event @VUMAC	September 24-25, 2011
	Virginia Conference UMW 39 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting @ VUMAC	October 29-30, 2011
	<b>Arlington District UMW Advent Event @ Oakton UMC</b>	<b>November 19, 2011</b>

## Arlington District United Methodist Women Officers for 2011

### ELECTED OFFICERS

#### President

Karen McElfish  
721 N. Emerson Street  
Arlington, VA 22203-1407  
703-522-6837  
[James.McElfish@verizon.net](mailto:James.McElfish@verizon.net)

#### Vice President

*Vacant at this time*

#### Secretary

*Vacant at this time*

#### Treasurer

Mary Williams  
407 Adahi Road SE  
Vienna, VA 22180-5906  
703-281-3346  
[stmawms@cox.net](mailto:stmawms@cox.net)

### MISSION COORDINATORS

#### Education and Interpretation

Linda Arsenault  
43979 John Mosby Highway  
Chantilly, VA 20152-1363  
703-957-6906  
[LinArs51@gmail.com](mailto:LinArs51@gmail.com)

#### Social Action

Gladys Packett  
879 N. Jacksonville Street  
Arlington, VA 22205-1323  
703-522-0341  
[gpackett@verizon.net](mailto:gpackett@verizon.net)

#### Membership Nurture and Outreach

*Vacant at this time*

#### Spiritual Growth

Ruth Mulkey  
4201 Lee Highway, #102  
Arlington, VA 22207-3152  
703-524-1776  
[rmulky@aol.com](mailto:rmulky@aol.com)

#### Secretary for Program Resources

Frances Ellis  
2933 Fox Mill Road  
Herndon, VA 20171-1527  
703-476-1127  
[fwellis@aol.com](mailto:fwellis@aol.com)

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Roberta Spence  
333 S. Glebe Road, #604  
Arlington, VA 22204  
703-486-1327  
[pastm1prime@yahoo.com](mailto:pastm1prime@yahoo.com)

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

VUMAC Representative  
*Vacant at this time*

Editor of the *Tapestry*  
*Vacant at this time*



For general information about Arlington District UMW, e-mail  
[arlingtondistrictumw@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtondistrictumw@gmail.com)

"The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me. Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. But Zion said,



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the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you; See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me. Isaiah 49:13-

## **Sydenstricker UMW**

Saturday, March 12

8 AM—Breakfast in Hottle Hall

9 AM—Seminar with Rachel Bachenberg

***"Hidden Lives: Never Out of God's View....***

***Our Christian Response to  
Human Trafficking"***



Rachel Bachenberg

Rachel is from Kansas City, Missouri and has been active in UMW since college age. Rachel has a BA in Religion from Nebraska Wesleyan University and received her RN from Bryan Memorial School of Nursing. She was Dean and Assistant Dean in the Missouri West School of Christian Mission.

Rachel is currently Missouri Conference Coordinator for Social Action. Rachel was District Christian Social Involvement and Christian Personhood. She has led Retreats and has been a Study Group Leader for Schools of Christian Mission since 1983. Rachel enjoys attending National Assembly every four years since 1982. She was privileged to attend National Seminar in 1991. She served as a volunteer consultant in the UMW Membership Campaign. Rachel was a US-2 person in mission serving at Epworth Village in York, Nebraska from 1981-83.

Rachel is a Registered Nurse working at Truman Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She collects textiles and loves cloth from all over the world and uses them for many worship centers. She loves to read and travel. In 1995, she attended the UN's Forum on Women in China. In 1998, she travelled to Indonesia with the General Board of Global Ministries Culture and Mission Tour. In 2009, Rachel attended the United Methodist's Women Hands That Heal Training of Trainers on Human Trafficking and is part of the Women's Division Human Trafficking Task Force.

**Sydenstricker United Methodist Church**

8508 Hooes Road, Springfield, VA 22153

For more information or to RSVP, please call the church office at 703-451-8223.

*Arlington District UMW*  
*Spring Prayer Breakfast*  
***Finding Peace On Your Journey***

Our journey through life takes us up steep mountains, down deep valleys, and through mighty chasms. Finding meaning and hope, building an unshakable faith in Jesus Christ is one of our deepest longings. Come to the Arlington District's Prayer Breakfast to find hope and experience peace.



**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 9, 2011 9:00 AM  
PLEASANT VALLEY UMC**

**OUR SPEAKER  
DR. TERESA SMITH**



Rev. Dr. Teresa Smith is the director of New Pathways, a ministry to spiritually guide those who are suffering, toward hope and healing; as well as Pastor of Grace and New Hope United Methodist Churches. She has led retreats for clergy throughout the Virginia Conference. She is also the author of *Through the Darkest Valley: The Psalms of Lament* and *One Woman's Lifelong Battle Against Depression*. Smith inspires hope. She has a way of sharing her past so that others learn how they too can find peace.

Directions: From I-66 West, take Exit 57 B, Route 50 West. Toward Winchester. About 9 miles, make a U-Turn at Sowers Rd. onto Route 50 East. The church is 0.3 miles on the right.

# Virginia Conference United Methodist Women

## Spiritual Life Retreat

May 13-15, 2011



### “Blessed to be a Blessing”

Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center

707 Fourth Street

Blackstone, VA 23824

434-292-5308

Registration form is available at [www.vaumw.org](http://www.vaumw.org)

Mail registration form and check for the total amount payable to Virginia Conference United Methodist Women to the registrar: [Joyce Winston, 2411 Pembroke Ave, Hampton, VA 23664-1243](mailto:Joyce.Winston@vaumw.org). (Phone: 757-851-6897 Email: [Buck-row@aol.com](mailto:Buck-row@aol.com)).

Registration deadline: May 6, 2011

## School of Christian Missions, July 22-28, 2011

The School of Christian Missions is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on recent mission study topics. Each School offers classes on a topic covering three themes:

- Spiritual Growth
- Geographic
- Social Issue

### How Can I Participate?

Whether a United Methodist Women member or not, you are invited to attend the School of Christian Mission.

The School is held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone. The weekend session will be held from Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24. The weekday session will be held from Monday, July 25 through Thursday, July 28.

### What Should I Expect?

At the School of Christian Missions, you grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. The studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of women in the fulfillment of the mission work of the church.

The School of Christian Missions also includes:

- Worship & singing
- Interest Groups around current issues
- Officer training
- Audiovisual presentations
- Fellowship events

### When are Schools of Christian Mission?

Schools of Christian Mission are held every summer. The weekend session will be held from Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24. The weekday session will be held from Monday, July 25 through Thursday, July 28.

### Where do Schools take Place?

Schools of Christian Mission take place across every United Methodist conference and organized by conference United Methodist Women leadership. Our School is held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone.

### History

Schools of Christian Mission began in the mid-1930s by the Woman's Home Missionary Society. Every year more than 20,000 people participate in the Schools of Christian Mission.

### Mission Studies

Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by studying mission studies. Mission studies are offered each year - a **geographical, topical, and spiritual growth** study. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

## School of Christian Missions (continued)

### Current Mission Studies for 2011

- Geographic study: Haiti: Challenges and Hope
- Spiritual Growth study: The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation
- Topical study: Joy to the World!: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity

### Future Mission Studies

#### 2012

- **Spiritual Growth:** Living Sacramentally and Walking Justly
- **Geographic:** Haiti: Challenges & Hope
- **Social Issue:** Poverty

#### 2013

- **Spiritual Growth:** Immigration & the Bible
- **Geographic:** The Roma of Europe
- **Social Issue:** Poverty

#### 2014

- **Spiritual Growth:** How Is It with Your Soul?
- **Geographic:** The Roma of Europe
- **Social Issue:** The Church and People with Disabilities

