Northwest Texas Conference Newsletter

United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

January 15, 2012

Upcoming Opportunities

Leadership Training FUMC Plainview	2/4
Spiritual Growth Retreat (Ceta Canyon)	4/13-14
Annual Conference FUMC Lubbock	5/31-6/2
Jurisdiction Meeting Abilene	6/22-24
School of Christian Mission McMurry University	7/26-29
Mothers of Young Children Retreat Ceta Canyon	9/7-8
Annual Meeting FUMC Big Spring	9/21-22

All Things Made New

Together We Can!
Leadership Training Event
February 4 2012
First United Methodist Church
Plainview, TX
Registration 9:30

The Leadership Training Event, primarily for district and local officers, but open to all members, will be held at Plainview First United Methodist Church, 1001 W. 7th St., Plainview, TX, Saturday, February 4th. Registration will begin at 9:30 AM. Plan to come early to: enjoy refreshments, view, purchase the latest program resources, and visit with friends. The program will begin promptly at 10:00 AM in the church sanctuary. A delicious lunch, served by the Plainview First United Methodist Women, will cost $8.00. The meeting will conclude at approximately 3:00 PM.

Again this year each office will have an exclusive training session with one on one help provided. Local unit members are invited to come, but District and Local Officers are encouraged to attend, to advance officer leadership skills, meet district counterparts, and attend district planning sessions.

Come to see Faith, Hope, Love in Action! Mission updates and awareness will be made through a special fun presentation by our talented Conference Team.

Contact Sherrie Burns, Vice-President, for further information: 806-467-9648,or email dburns23@suddenlink.net.

The Conference Executive Team looks forward to seeing you Saturday, February 4th, at Plainview First United Methodist Church, Plainview, TX.

Come on Down to Abilene! June 22-24

Northwest Texas Conference will host the South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women Quadrennial Meeting. This is the meeting where Women's Division Directors are elected to serve for the next four years. The meeting promises to provide great music, great talks, and great fellowship.

Dr. Dorothy Watson-Tatem, who is a bishop candidate from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will be leading our Bible Study on Luke 1:46-48. Harriet Jane Olsen, the Deputy General Secretary of the Women's Division, and Inelda Gonzalez, the president of Women's Division will both be speaking. The musicians come from New Orleans and will be bringing original compositions for our entertainment and worship. Nine different workshops are available. including one called "Techni Nimblefingers" and hands on card making.

The banquet Saturday night will have a western theme and be catered by famous Perinni's as featured in Texas Monthly.

The registration cost, $175, includes Saturday lunch and a catered banquet on Saturday night. Northwest Texas Conference UMW has a block of rooms reserved at the Courtyard Marriot in Abilene. Rooms are $103.50/night for 1-4 people.

Make the effort and bring your friends – you will have a truly great time. For more information, check

http://www.gbgm-umc.org/scjurisdictionumw/

YA'LL COME!

Spiritual Growth Retreat

Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14 at Ceta Canyon

Registration, Check-in 3:30 on Friday; Dismissal 3:00 Saturday

$85 for full retreat; Saturday only $28

Come! Escape to Ceta Canyon for a weekend of spiritual growth and renewal. It's a chance to see old friends and make new ones, to enjoy someone else's cooking, and spend some time in beautiful Ceta Canyon.

Don't miss this, or you will miss something wonderful!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____Email _____

Send Registration and Check to Margaret Vaughn; 3148 S 23rd Street; Abilene, TX 79605

Registration due by April 6, 2012

Resource Room Report

Mary Catherine Logan, Secretary of Program Resources

Resource materials will be available at the Leadership Training Event, February 4 at Plainview First United Methodist Church. Materials will include 2012 Prayer Calendars, 2012 Program Books, and resources available from the Mission Resource Center for the 2012 studies. All titles for the 2012 Reading Program will be available in limited supply. Shop early for the best selections.

Remember the structure of the Reading Program has changed to five categories. The reading plans have changed as follows: Plan I: 5 books, one book for each category, plus reading Response. Plan II: 10 books per year, two books for each category plus reading Response and New World Outlook. Plan III: 15 books per year, 2 books for each category plus 5 additional books from any category including children and youth titles, reading Response and New World Outlook. Plan IV: 20 books per year, 2 books for each category plus 10 additional books from any category including children and youth titles, reading Response and New World Outlook.

2008 Titles will be credited if read before December 31, 2012. Reading Plans should be turned into your District Secretary of Program Resources by June 1.

All titles and The 2012 Reading Program Catalog can be purchased from the Mission Resource Center (MRC) by phone (1-800-305-9857), by the internet www.missionresourcecenter.org), by postage: 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, TX 75247.

Growing a Garden of United Methodist Women In the Northwest Texas Conference

Most of us living in the Panhandle Plains area of Texas definitely know the value of a good garden. Nancy Piercy, President of Amarillo District, asked Linda Elms, Jurisdictional Vice President, and Sherrie Burns, NWTX Conf. Vice President to come up with a format with guidelines to "grow" United Methodist Women Units in her district. The following is what they came up with using the analogy of a garden and all it entails. It has been generalized to fit any of our NWTX Conference Districts. Let's Grow UMW Gardens together!!

Preparations for our UMW Gardens of Growth

~~Decide on Areas to Grow

~First suggestion are the churches listed in year book for your district who have local contacts only.

~Other suggestions are churches in your district who have no existing unit.

Initial Preparation for Contact Packets

~ Make a blank form to use for each church with vital information including names, contact numbers, interests, etc.

~Need a survey form to hand out. Check with Donna Echols on her Soul Sisters form (could use a version of it).

~Prepare a " Master List of Churches" with all needed information.

~Need a team of 2 for each church UMW Growth Garden plot. This can be a "mentor" and a district/conference officer.

Tilling the UMW Growth Garden Plots

~Make initial contact with local person and/or minister. It can be a letter with phone follow up or phone call with personal visit.

~Next step would be personal contact using the packets completed under preparation. This could be using any of the following tools:

~Meeting with minister and local contact at church.

~A five minute informative "seed speech" given at Sunday morning worship addressing a new UMW unit.

~Offer to meet with a prospective group of ladies at that church at a membership tea, meet and greet, lunch, etc.

~The "prospective group" will differ depending on the congregations. Might be those newly retired, empty nesters, young mothers, senior citizens, or career ladies all needing personal nurturing.

Working the UMW Gardens

~Decide on type of circles. After surveys are done, will give idea if want to do a craft circle, book study, reading circle, UMCOR kit circle or a traditional circle.

~~Plenty of discussion needed and work to fit the "plot".

~~Time Line to be implemented. Offer help with announcements, inserts and team assistance at initial "planting".

~~Be inclusive with your own District. Hopefully the gardens will yield flowers to be included in the "District Bouquet" for calendared events.

Membership Nurture and Outreach

You have a big job! "No kidding!" you say. With membership on the decline and other organizations and activities taking more and more of everyone's free time, the task of membership nurture and outreach may feel like an exercise in futility. Don't forget, "Faith, Hope, and Love in action". Keep the faith. Have a little hope. Love people actively.

Praise God that "love" is a verb and not a feeling! We will lovingly help each other till the soil one step-at-a-time. Do a little every day (or nearly every day—I'm no legalist) and we will go far towards "growing the garden of our sisterhood of grace". I learned so much at the Leadership Training Event in St. Louis and I realize that all the information needs to be condensed for you to receive the most benefit from your training with me.

For that to happen, I invite all District and Local Coordinators of Membership Nurture and Outreach to contact me in advance. Write me, text me, Facebook me, or tell me the answers to the following questions:

- ◊ What do you feel your greatest need is personally to be the best MNO you can be?
- ◊ What do you feel your district or unit's greatest need is to flourish?
- ◊ What resource materials do you have?
- ◊ What resource materials do you need?

With gratitude and prayers for your courage,

Teresa Bridwell

NWTX Conference Coordinator of

Member Nurture and Outreach

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http://www.facebook.com/teresa.bridwell1

Watch for information about the Retreat for Mothers of Young Children. This Fall retreat will be September 7 and 8 at Ceta Canyon.

If you have children at home under the age of ten and would love to spend a weekend with others who also have these young blessings, plan to attend. If you know a mother of young children, encourage her to attend. Encourage your unit to help sponsor these young women to participate in a time designed just for them.

The President's Posting

ALL THINGS MADE NEW

I with you a Blessed New Year in the name of Jesus Christ, who makes all things new. Some of the "new": The Church prepares for General Conference and the end of the Quadrennium. National United Methodist Women continue to re-structure, as does our Conference UMW, your Districts, and your local organizations.

Turning an objective eye onto our Mission to Women, Children and Youth may be wistful to those of us approaching age 60 and beyond. Those of us 40 and younger are crying, "Lord, How Long…!" Thanks to our "herstory," NWTX Conference UMW leadership and Mission-minded members, we have been faithful. We have alleviated pain and hardship throughout the world. I think about your gifts and give thanks for you.

Our Bishop, Max Whitfield, tells us gently: "If you are not solving 'the problem,' get out of the way!" Bishop Max also tells us we are to be "Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World!"

Is this not a call to "Make All Things New"? One "row to cultivate" of "making things new" is a plan for "Growing Our UMW Garden," formulated by Amarillo District UMW, seen elsewhere in our newsletter. We know of several plans for transforming tired units into physically active and prayerfully active groups and organizations. Hear more about these exciting plans at LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT, Saturday, February 4.

Another "row to cultivate" is a Tour of Missions in NWTX and New Mexico Conferences, slated for 2013 or 2014. Getting "on the ground" at a National Mission Project will give you an experience you will draw from and remember the rest of your lives. It is time to make your plans and your commitment to come with us.

The other "field to plow" is our to the Charter for Racial Justice Policies. Our Vice-President, Sherrie Burns, is inviting a very special Hispanic person to be our speaker and to lead a workshop for our 2013 Annual Meeting. What a kick-off to the new Quadrennium this would be! Your Conference Mission Team now includes a Spanish Language Coordinator, Hilda Rivera. If your first language is SPANISH, please contact Hilda or me. And plan to attend the LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT.

Of course, I would like to have as many district and local presidents, as can crowd into the room, in our one-on-one President's sharing at LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT. Remember, we are the HOST CONFERENCE at the Quadrennial Meeting of the South Central Jurisdiction, Abilene, June 22-24, 2012. I am sure you are making your ONLINE reservations as I write about "Making All Things New!"

I'll be the one clapping my hands that you have arrived at LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT!

Marge Savage

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We're on the web!
www.nwtxconf.org

2012 Conference Officers

President: Marge Savage

Vice President: Sherrie Burns

Secretary: Pam Wiltshire

Treasurer: Virginia Cotton

Spiritual Growth: Frances Dauner

Education & Interpretation

Sue Silverthorn

Social Action: Judy Wiggins

Membership Nurture, & Outreach

Teresa Bridwill

Program Resources:

Mary Catherine Logan

Language Coordinator:

Hilda Rivera

Historian: Marge Wilkerson

Standing Rules: Peggy Wright

Nominating Committee

Chair Jean Marsh

Members: Ida Mae Seymore, Margie Titus, Patricia Hutchinson, and Katrina Robinson

Dean of School of Christian Mission

Brenda Breeden

Assistant Dean

Rita Wynn

VP South Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team: Linda Elms

District Presidents:

Abilene: Margaret Vaughn

Amar2011 Conference Officers

President: Marge Savage

Vice President: Sherrie Burns

Secretary: Pam Wiltshire

Stay informed about United Methodist Women around the world. Read response magazine.

School of Christian Mission—McMurry University—July 26-29, 2012

Mark your calendar (and your friends' calendars) now! Don't miss this event.

Studies:

Spiritual Growth—Immigration in the Bible

One class taught by Rev. Steve Ulrey

One class taught by Pam Zwickey

Issue Study—Poverty

Taught by Maribeth Williams

Geographic Study—Haiti

Taught by Cynthia Martin

Saturday School—Spiritual Growth Study, Immigration in the Bible

Taught by Judy Nelson.

Plus free time activities and interest groups, mission emphases, and plenty of ice cream with all those good meals!

Questions or ideas? Call Dean Brenda Breeden at (325) 672-6985 or Assistant Dean Rita Wynn at (806) 655-1261

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!

Watch your inboxes for more information coming this Spring.