



Blue Ridge District Newsletter

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.

BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT
2014 UNIT OFFICERS LEADERSHIP TRAINING
 For New AND Returning Unit Officers

Moving on to Lead



Abernethy United Methodist Church
 1418 Patton Ave, Asheville, NC 28806
November 1, 2014
 9:15 Registration
 9:45 Music and Announcements
 10:00 Classes

This event is not just for unit officers, but for every UMW member. Come and learn new ideas!

Love Offering: In Honor of all leaders in our Local Units that put Faith, Hope and Love into Action.

Hands-on Mission Project: Health Kits. See page 11 for Assembly Instructions.

Directions: From East: Follow I-40 W to exit 53B for I-240W toward Asheville and merge into I-240 W. Merge onto US-19S/US-23S via exit 3A on your left. Go about 2 miles and church is on your left. From West: Follow I-40 E to exit 44 for US-19/US-23. Turn left onto US-19N/US-23 N and continue for 2.4 miles. Church will be on your right. From South: Take i-26 West to merge onto I-40 W. Take exit 44 for US-19/US-23 toward W. Asheville/Enka-Candler. Turn left onto US-19N/US-23 N. Church will be on your right. From North: Follow I-26E/US-19S/US-23S to Asheville. Keep right at the fork (close to Asheville) and merge into I-240 W/i-26E/US-19S/US-23 S. Continue for about 2 miles and church will be on your left.

Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women

2014 OFFICERS

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Committee on Nominations 2014

Jackie Rio, Chairperson, 101 2nd St, Black Mountain (Black Mountain UMC)
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Barbara Campbell, 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC 28801 (St. Paul's)
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The Blue Ridge District Newsletter is published quarterly. Send any information you would like to have included to the Editor below.
(Acceptance of articles will depend on space and available interest to the entire District.)

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2014 NURTURING PARTNERS (SHEPHERDESSES)

Your Nurturing Partner is a personalized connection between your district leaders and your unit. Please call your Nurturing Partner during the year if you have any questions or needs. She will be notifying you to remind you about special events throughout the year. Your Nurturing Partner would like to come visit your unit and would appreciate an invitation. Our goal is to visit every unit throughout the district during the year.

PLEASE ASK YOUR NURTURING PARTNER TO VISIT YOUR UNIT!

<p><u>Ann Aldridge</u> 828-433-0988 Thermal City Pinnacle</p>	<p><u>Sue Glover</u> 828-674-7661 Nebo Old Fort Caroleen Lebanon St. Mark's</p>	<p><u>Jo Pyatt</u> 828-652-2530 Black Mountain Groce Pleasant Grove Swannanoa Skyland</p>
<p><u>Karen Anderson</u> 828-628-9385 Oak Hill Trinity-Asheville Saluda Glennwood</p>	<p><u>Gwen Harris</u> 828-682-4589 Spruce Pine Bald Creek Higgins Memorial Mars Hill</p>	<p><u>Doris Morrison</u> 828-433-7796 Pleasant Hill Addie's Chapel Clinchfield</p>
<p><u>Barbara Blevins</u> 678-234-2615 Bethel Montmorenci Biltmore</p>	<p><u>Judy Hawkins</u> 828-443-4564 Mt. Hebron-Centennial Snow Hill-Morganton Gilboa</p>	<p><u>Tracey Owens</u> 828-633-2322 Abernethy Snow Hill-Candler Tryon Sardis</p>
<p><u>Carol Bryson</u> 828-683-4141 Avery's Creek Reeves Chapel Edneyville</p>	<p><u>Beverly Hill</u> 828-669-9309 Asbury Memorial East Asheville East Marion Upward</p>	<p><u>Jo Pyatt</u> 828-652-2530 Piney Mountain Oak Grove Rutherfordton First Kistler's Chapel</p>
<p><u>Barbara Campbell</u> 828-225-0414 Pleasant Hill-Candler Brevard</p>	<p><u>Dorothy Johnson</u> 828-738-8148 Well Springs Concord Gilkey First Marion</p>	<p><u>Jackie Rio</u> 828-669-2885 Emma Spindale Balfour</p>
<p><u>Maureen Carr</u> 828-277-7065 Windom Hope Dix Creek</p>	<p><u>Kathy Kennedy</u> 828-683-4678 Weaverville Acton Oakley</p>	<p><u>Peggy Sanders</u> 828-606-7947 Central Fairview Sharon Moore's Grove Grace</p>
<p><u>Lucy Earls</u> 828-453-8566 Mundy's Chapel Salem-Bostic Trinity Providence-Forest City Tanner's Grove</p>	<p><u>Betty Letzig</u> 828-255-0414 Hendersonville First Fletcher Mills River Columbus</p>	<p><u>Joanie Strohm</u> 828-649-1156 Brevard Ebenezer Forest City Salem St. Paul's St. Timothy's</p>

Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women
2015 OFFICERS and Committee on Nominations

Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women 2014 Officers are all serving another year so the 2015 officers will be same as listed on page 2.

The Committee on Nominations for 2015 will be the same as 2014 except Eva Farren will replace Dorothy Johnson. Her info is below.

Eva Farren, 37 Brahma Ridge, Candler, NC 28715 (*Piney Mountain*)
(828) 665-1646

Congratulations to Barbara Campbell and Betty Letzig for their “Walk for Mission” report. Their 2014 total was \$3400.00 – Best Ever! This makes a grand total of \$20,716.40 since 2006. Now that is serving women, children, and youth around the world!

[A Message from Your President](#)



Our District and Conference Annual Meetings brought celebrations of 145 years of our organization’s existence, now known as United Methodist Women.

There were also celebrations of accomplishments in 2013. In this newsletter you will find what our Blue Ridge District’s units accomplished.

At the Conference Annual meeting our district was recognized, along with 7 other districts, and received:

- First place in per capita Mission Giving
- First place in Walk to Mission fund raising
- All districts were given first place in increase in undesignated Mission Giving
- Third place in percentage of units involved in the Reading Program
- Third place in percentage of units visited known as LUV (Local Unit Visitation)

We can do even better! Every unit should try to increase their 2015 pledge; get more women, children, and youth in our reading program; work on being a Mission Today Unit; advocate for justice by being a Justice Today Unit; give in all 5 Channels of Giving; contact your Nurturing Partner for a visit; and encourage buying Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards. There is great benefit in attending district and conference events.

In choosing the hands-on project for our Leadership Training, I was reminded that there were 18,000 health kits given at the border for the children and adults who came into our country because of very dangerous situations in their home countries. Receiving a health kit means that person can be cleaner, healthier and know there is someone who cares about them.

Thank you for all you do every day for women, children and youth.

I would love to hear from you if you have questions, concerns or just want to chat. Getting to know each one of you brings joy to me!

Joanie Strohm, *Blue Ridge District President*

Vice-President



Congratulations to Beverly Hill! She got married on September 27th! We also want to thank her for the wonderful job she did organizing and leading our District Annual Meeting at the Brooks-Howell Home on August 23rd. We have had lot of great comments regarding this event. Plan on attending next year!

Beverly Hill, *Blue Ridge District Vice President*

Secretary



Read *response* magazine! That was one of my many “takeaways” from the conference annual meeting Saturday, Sept. 6, when Barbara Campbell gave a most inspiring mission address. A big part of being a United Methodist Woman is being educated and well-informed, not only about community and world affairs, but also about what our organization is doing everywhere to benefit women, children and youth. *response*, the magazine of women in mission, has articles about how UMW is taking action in big and small ways. For example, the current (October) issue covers large-scale efforts like UMW education programs in the Philippines, the situation in South Sudan and a UMW effort to assist the poor in Virginia, as well as spiritually uplifting articles and prayers, “Bright Lights” about local UMW efforts, and much more. I encourage you to subscribe *response* to be informed, energized and proud of UMW. (Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response/subscribe). (See page 10)

Karen Anderson, *Blue Ridge District Secretary*

Treasurer



We are nearing the end of UMW year 2014. We will close out our fiscal year on November 30th. All Unit Treasurers are to be commended for their dedication and hard work this year. Our Summary of Giving through 3rd Quarter is:

- \$ 51,625.40 Undesignated Mission Giving
- 10,640.47 Designated Mission Giving
- 62,265.87 Total Giving

Our 2014 Pledge to Mission is \$70,000. Remember that only **Undesignated Mission Giving** counts toward our Pledge. It is wonderful that Units remember missions dear to their hearts and make donations to those missions. Let’s continue to contribute in our channels of Undesignated Giving. These undesignated gifts are the foundation for the UMW missions for women, children, and youth around the world.

I hope you are collecting your World Thank Offerings if you have not already completed yours. We usually collect those offerings in November with a program dedicated to World Thank. God has blessed us with the bounty of our beautiful Blue Ridge area. Let’s remember those who are suffering from hunger right around us and give to the UMW World Thank Offering.

Walks for Mission are beginning to be completed. In 2013 Blue Ridge District was #1 in Walk for Mission collections. We are well on our way again in 2014. Collect your sponsors and take a Walk for Mission. The weather is getting cooler and God has given us a beautiful place to take a walk.

Thank you to each Unit for the work for missions through UMW. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at District and Conference events, through e-mail, and phone calls. It has been a pleasure to be your District Treasurer this year. I hope we can work together again in 2015.

Carol Bryson , *Blue Ridge District Treasurer*

Spiritual Growth



What happens when United Methodist Women get together? We get inspired and we have fun! That's what happened during the 2014 WNCC UMW annual meeting at Lake Junaluska. On a personal note, I was honored to receive a UMW pin from the Conference for being one of the newly consecrated deaconesses. I was also humbled to be asked to assist Bishop Charlene Kammerer in serving Communion. And it is so touching to see the smiling faces of so many UM Women from around our Conference as the deaconesses & missionaries process into Stuart Auditorium. If you did not attend this event this year, make sure you plan on attending in 2015!

If your unit would like me to do a presentation on the deaconess program, Brooks-Howell Home (I'm on staff there), or on UMW in general, please do not hesitate to contact me.

One last thing, letters and registration concerning the 2015 Prayer Breakfast would be sent out to unit presidents in late January. If you would rather receive an emailed copy, please contact me at traceybhh@gmail.com.

Tracey Owens, Blue Ridge District Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

Education and Interpretation

It's hard to believe that 2014 is winding down. It has been a very good year for the Blue Ridge District UMW, but we have plenty of time to make it even better! Units can complete criteria for becoming a Mission Today unit, which is so much more than just earning a certificate. It's a way to live out our UMW purpose and vision in service to Christ. In her address at our conference annual meeting, Barbara Campbell made me realize this truth even more fully. Criterion 22 of Mission Today asks us to participate in at least one Conference Hands on Mission Project, most often an UMCOR Relief/Supply Kit. Barbara said that UMCOR had distributed 18,000 health kits to women and children who have fled the violence in Central America and are seeking refuge in the United States. She felt sure that some of those kits came from our conference. When coupled with Barbara's remarks, an article in the September issue of response (Criteria 5 and 16), enabled me to see not 18,000 health kits or a check mark on my unit's Mission Today sheet but 18,000 tired, desperate women and children receiving a token bit of love and kindness. Mission Today is a map to guide us in service.

As we're thinking about UMCOR kits, I'm happy to report that at our Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska, the Blue Ridge District donated 2 sewing kits, 2 bedding kits, and 151 school kits, plus \$176.00 for mailing. I'm sure our contributions are even higher, as all kits and money do not pass through me. For our officer training session, we are asking participants to bring health kits.

Looking forward, fall is the time for making our mission pledge for next year, while November is the month for our World Thank Offering. As we prayerfully make our pledge and offering, we remind ourselves to be as generous as possible and to remember that even a small amount when given to and blessed by Christ (five loaves and two fish) becomes a lot! Again, we need to remind ourselves that our pledge is more than figures on a form and our offering more than dollars in an offering plate or completing Criteria 1 and 15 of Mission

Today: They are an investment in the lives of women, children, youth, families, and the marginalized around the world.

Gwen Harris, Blue Ridge District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Social Action



Wow! Where has 2014 gone? We have had some of the best meetings and gatherings this year. This is a good time of the year to review our **Social Action Priorities** and **Justice Today** criteria in our local units before end-of-the-year reports for 2014 are due. If you do not have a checklist of the criteria, please contact me and I will get the information to you. I will soon be sending the certificates to each unit that qualified to be a **Justice Today Unit** in 2013. Last year I encouraged you to increase the number of units qualifying by 10%. I am happy to tell you that we had 31 units that qualified in 2013. This represents an increase of 24% over 2012. That is just great, but I know we can continue to improve.

I would like to encourage all of you to attend the Blue Ridge District Leadership Training on November 1. This is for all local officers and members. This is a great opportunity to get information to take back to your local units.

Lucy Earls, Blue Ridge District Mission Coordinator for Social Action

Membership, Nurture, Outreach

My favorite book, at present, is The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything by James Martin, SJ and in thumbing through it as I was thinking of the newsletter article and yes, even my completing Kathy Morgan's term as MNO, I came upon the section that talks of our desire for a closer relationship with God. The author says and I quote: "Desire is the primary way that leads people to discover who they are and what they are meant to do. Desires are also the way God fulfills God's own dreams for the world, by calling people to certain tasks." I truly believe UMW is a part of God's desire for change in our hurting world. You might ask how an office or even being a part of a unit can be a part of that desire and it is only when you experience an event like we just did at the Conference Annual Meeting that we get a sense of how vital every unit, every officer and yes, even every member is to the success of the mission work of UMW through the tasks they are called to do. As we near the end of the year, I would remind you of the Nurturing Partner visits and that there is still time for these. These visits have always been one of my very favorite responsibilities as they have allowed me to make new friends, gain new ideas, and to fellowship in a unique way as I represented the district team. Also, the District Leadership Training is on Nov. 1st and I would encourage every person holding a local office to attend. Even if you have held your office for some time there are things to learn even if it is only the sharing with other persons holding a similar position. The fellowship at such events enriches our lives so that we can work toward those dreams of Gods for His world through UMW.

Jo Pyatt, Blue Ridge District Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture, and Outreach

Program Resources



Thank you to everyone who participated in the reading program this past year. I encourage you to continue to read, educate and understand the missions of United Methodist Women. Whether you

read online, borrow from the library or purchase books from Mission Resources or a bookstore, securing the recommended reading books affords a study opportunity and hopefully leads to action. In 2013, 24 of the 78 units and 80 readers in the Blue Ridge District participated in the Reading Program. Let's try very hard to increase the number by at least 15% in 2014. There is still plenty of time. Remember any books you have read and not counted from the 2010-2014 reading lists can count this year. I look forward to seeing you at officer's training..if there are any special requests please let me know. Our mission includes prayer, study and action. Please promote the Reading Program including the reading of Response magazine to your units. Have a blessed fall..

Link to UMW Reading Program: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/programs/readingprogram/>

Kathy Kennedy, *Blue Ridge District Secretary of Program Resources*
Historian



I am happy to serve as your Historian. Please be sure to get me any pictures or articles that you would like me to put in our scrapbooks. Many thanks!

Judy Hawkins, *Blue Ridge District Historian*

Communications Coordinator



As some of the other officers have mentioned, I can't believe we are approaching the end of 2014. This reminded me to put in the deadlines for our District Newsletter for next year. If you have any pictures or information you would like to share with the District, please don't hesitate to email me or send it to me (though digital copy does make it a little easier to put in the newsletter.) My contact info is on page 2. We all love to hear about the wonderful things your units and/or circles are doing for women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world! Thank you so much!

2015 Deadlines for information for the District Newsletter are:

- January 15, 2015 (Newsletter emailed or mailed first week of February)
- March 15, 2015 (Newsletter emailed or mailed first week of April)
- June 15, 2015 (Newsletter emailed or mailed first week of July)
- Sept. 15, 2015 (Newsletter mailed first week of October)

Peggy Sanders, *Blue Ridge District Communications Coordinator*

Committee on Nominations



The annual UMW meeting was wonderful, renewed my spirit, gave me energy, reminded me of the power of being part of a greater body of women with a United purpose. I learned another name for the Nominating committee. The name is the "Match Makers". Our responsibility is not only to fill a spot, but to make a match, offering an opportunity for spiritual growth, learning, and sharing. Think about ways to be effective "match makers", to offer your services and receive your match.

Jackie Rio, *Blue Ridge District Nomination Committee Chair*

United Methodist Women
Five Channels of Mission Giving

Through their generosity United Methodist Women members help empower and improve the lives

of women, youth and children in the United States and around the world.

About 70 percent of Mission Giving funds from members go to programs and projects supporting women, children and youth. Around 20-30 percent stays with the local, district, and conference organizations of United Methodist Women for local mission. Only 9 percent covers administrative costs.

- **PLEDGE TO MISSION** - Pledge to Mission giving is the foundation for mission work through United Methodist Women. An individual Pledge to Mission is the amount each member decides is her share of the local unit's total budget.
- **SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION** - A Special Mission Recognition is an undesignated gift for mission work that honors the recipient. Special Mission Recognitions may be given by any individual, or circle, or unit, in honor of any person, female or male. It is not necessary that the recipient be a member of United Methodist Women.
- **GIFT TO MISSION** - A Gift to Mission is a way to honor someone with an undesignated gift in her or his name of at least \$5.00. There are eight different Gift to Mission cards: Thank You, Congratulations, Thinking of You, A Special Day, A Baby, Happy Birthday, Peace, and In the Service of Christ. And, there are five special Christmas card designs. Each card has a message indicating that a gift to mission through United Methodist Women has been made in the recipient's honor.
- **GIFT IN MEMORY** - A Gift in Memory honors the memory of a much-loved family member or friend by making possible additional mission work in the United States and around the world. Gift in Memory cards represent a gift of a minimum of \$5.00. The cards can be obtained for free, so that they are readily available when needed. The person making the gift sends the card to the family of the deceased person, and then sends their gift money to the local UMW treasurer along with the tear-off stub indicating the name of the deceased person.
- **WORLD THANK OFFERING** - The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. Individuals or families collect such gifts in special boxes or labeled containers. Gifts are usually brought together in the unit once a year.



Special Mission Recognition Gifts offer a meaningful way to honor members who have dedicated so much time and effort to service. It can be any amount. (It does not always have to include a pin.) Please don't forget to recognize your special members.

response

the magazine of women in mission

Subscribe to response

The magazine of women in mission will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind. Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work.

response features include:

- Bible studies
- opportunities for spiritual growth and development
- program suggestions
- articles on where the Pledge to Mission money goes
- regular features such as "Bright Lights" and "Responsively Yours"



response helps United Methodist Women reach out to:

- New and potential members of United Methodist Women
- Every woman in your church who shares our commitment to mission and welfare of women, youth, and children
- High school and college students, especially the young women in your congregation
- Sunday school teachers who can share **response** mission stories with all ages
- Leaders in your congregation, including your pastor, who will appreciate knowing more about the women's role in your church's mission outreach
- Your friends and neighbors in other faith communities who share our passion for children and youth and for social justice

Order by Mail: **response:** Magazines with a Mission , PO Box 395, Congers, NY 10920-0395

Order by Phone: 1-877-881-2385 (toll-free) 1-845-267-3471 (Outside U.S.)

Order online: Go to <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response/subscribe>

response

the magazine of women in mission

Health Kit

Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes. **Health Kit Value:** \$12 per kit

Assembly

1 hand towel

- 15" x 25" to 17"x 27";
- Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable.

1 washcloth

1 comb

- Comb needs to be sturdy and at least 8" long;
- No pocket combs or picks please;
- Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable.

1 metal nail file or nail clippers

- No emery boards or toenail clippers.

1 bath-size soap

- 3 oz. and larger sizes only;
- No Ivory soap due to moisture content;
- Do not remove from original packaging.

1 toothbrush

- Adult size only;
- Do not remove from original packaging.

6 adhesive bandages

- ¾" to 1"-size;
- Common household Band-Aids.

1 plastic bag

- One-gallon size sealable bag only.

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

Assembly Directions

Set the \$1.00 for toothpaste aside to be included in a separate envelope. Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging, unless otherwise specified.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items, nothing more.
- Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- **UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent. Do not put single dollar bills in each kit. Collect all money for toothpaste and shipping, then place it in a separate envelope and send along with the kit donations.**

WNCC UMW District *Mission Today* Report for 2013 for the Blue Ridge District

Abernethy
 Action
 Avery's Creek
 Bald Creed
 Biltmore
 Black Mountain
 Centennial
 Central
 East Marion
 Ebenezer
 Fletcher
 Gilkey
 Grace
 Hendersonville First
 Marion First
 Montmorenci
 Moore's Grove
 Mt. Hebron
 Oak Grove
 Oakley
 Piney Mountain
 Pleasant Hill – Marion
 Rutherfordton First
 Saluda
 Skyland
 St. Paul's
 Trinity-Union Mills
 Weaverville
 Windom

Criteria for a Mission Today Unit:

- *1. **The Unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission. (Must be completed)**
- *2. Use the [Prayer Calendar](#) at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth.
- *3. The unit will use at least two programs from the [Program Book](#) during the year.
- *4. The unit or circle will conduct or participate in at least one [mission study](#) each year. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies are for each year. (If members of your unit, other than a conference or district officer, attend MISSION U or your District Mission Study and your unit takes an action growing out of the study...Gift to Mission, ministry related to the study, etc., your unit will meet this criteria.)
- *5. The unit will have at least two members [subscribing](#) to [response](#). (1 member subscribing with units less than 15 members.)
- *6. The unit will implement the [Charter for Racial Justice](#) in at least two ways during the year.
- *7. Become a member of the Western North Carolina UMW Justice Today.
- *8. The unit will add at least two [new members](#) (one member for units with less than 15 members) to its roll.
- *9. The unit will have one program from the [Social Principles of the United Methodist Church](#) 2013-2016.
- 10. At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or a district officer) will attend [MISSION U](#) (formerly School of Christian Mission) and report back to the unit on classes and events they experienced.
- 11. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members), other than a conference or district officer, will attend the district or [conference annual meeting](#) and report back to the unit on classes and events they experienced.
- 12. The unit will have at least one person joining the [United Methodist Women's Action Network](#) to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year. (To join, contact Women's Division Washington Office, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20002). (Attach to Mission Today report what you responded to and what action was taken.)
- 13. Members will correspond with five persons listed in the [Prayer Calendar](#) at least once a year.
- 14. The unit will co-sponsor, with the local church, a [Children's Sabbath](#). (This is a worship service highlighting the needs of children.) The United Methodist Women National Office and the Council of Bishops support this effort. Contact [Children's Defense Fund](#) for materials at 25 E. St. NW, Washington, DC 20001. Telephone 202-628-8787

- 15. The unit will contribute to all [five channels of Mission Giving](#). (See page 10)
- 16. Each unit or circle meeting will include a "Response Moment" where an item from [response](#) magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
- 17. The unit will sponsor one teen member (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman member (ages 18 to 39) to at least one Conference event during the year.
- 18. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members), other than a conference or district officer, will attend a district Prayer Breakfast, district Day Apart or conference [Spiritual Growth Retreat](#).
- 19. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) other than a district or conference officer will complete Plan 1 of the [Reading Program](#) and give a report to the unit on one of the books read.
- 20. The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year and/or for their United Methodist Women's Sunday.
- 21. The unit will add one new teen (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman (ages 18-39) circle during the year, or one new teen member (ages 12-17) or one new young woman member (ages 18-39) during the year.
- 22. The unit will be responsible for supporting at least one local mission project and participate in one Conference Hands On Mission Project during the year. The local project should be listed on your Mission Today report.

WNCC UMW District Justice Today Report for 2013 for the Blue Ridge District

Gold Units	Silver Units	Bronze Units
Bald Creek	Abernethy	Avery's Creek
Black Mountain	Addie's Chapel	Bethel
Fletcher	Centennial	Biltmore
Hendersonville First	Concord	Central
Moore's Grove	East Marion	Dix Creek
Oak Grove	Lebanon	Ebenezer
Oakley	Mt. Hebron	Marion First
Piney Mountain	Providence - Forest City	Pleasant Grove
Weaverville	St. Paul's	Rutherfordton First
	Trinity - Nebo	Saluda
		Trinity - Asheville
		Wells Spring
		Windom

WNCC UMW Reading Program for 2013 for the Blue Ridge District

Local Unit	Plan I	Plan II	Plan III	Plan IV
Abernethy	6			
Avery's Creek Adults	6			
Avery's Creek Children	7			
Bald Creek	3			
Bethel	2			
Biltmore	1		1	1
Black Mountain	1			
Central	7			
Concord	5			
East Asheville	2			
East Marion	2			
Grace	2			
Montmorenci	4			
Moore's Grove	5			
Oak Grove	4	2		
Oakley	6	4		
Piney Mountain	5			
Pleasant Hill - Marion	2			
Rutherfordton First	1			
Saluda	1			
St. Pauls	1		1	2
Trinity - Union Mills	1			
Weaverville	3	1		
Wells Spring				1

WNCC UMW District Mission Report for 2013 for the Blue Ridge District

Local Unit	Study	Type	Attendance
Abernethy	Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly	SCM	4
	Poverty	D	2
	Poverty	C	20
Acton	Poverty	D	1
Addie's Chapel	Poverty	D	1
Bald Creek	The Roma of Europe	D	9
Bethel	Poverty	D	2
Biltmore	Poverty	D	2
Black Mountain	Jesus & Courageous Women of the Bible	U	36
	Immigration & the Bible	U	14
Central	The Roma People of Europe	SCM	2
	Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly	SCM	2
	Poverty	D	1
	Poverty	U	16
Concord	Poverty	D	1
East Marion	The Roma People of Europe	SCM	1
	Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly	SCM	1
	Poverty	D	1
Ebenezer	Poverty	D	5
Fletcher	Poverty	D	3
Grace	Living Sacramentally	SCM	1
	The Roma People of Europe	SCM	1
Marion First	Poverty	D	1
Oak Grove	Poverty	D	4
Piney Mountain	Poverty	D	6
Rutherfordton First	The Roma People of Europe	SCM	1
	Poverty	D	2
Saluda	Poverty	D	1
Skyland	The Roma People of Europe	SCM	1
Snow Hill	Poverty	D	2
St. Pauls	The Roma People of Europe	SCM	2
	Living Sacramentally	SCM	2
	Poverty	C	5
	Food & Faith	C	4
	Food & Faith	U	8
Trinity	Poverty	D	2
Weaverville	The Roma People of Europe	SCM	1
	Poverty	D	6

D= District; SCM=Mission u; Y=Youth; U=Unit; C=Circle

Blue Ridge District Annual Meeting at the Brooks-Howell Home in August



Registration



We caught last year's President coming to register!



Hope you can print this in color! Brooks-Howell was beautifully decorated!

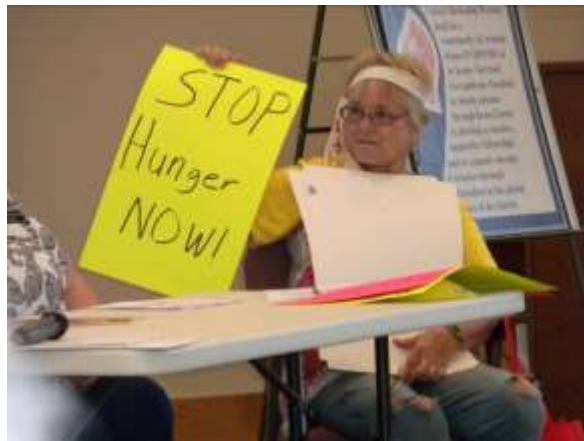


Happy Birthday UMW!



Stained glass window in the Chapel at the Brooks-Howell Home

The speakers at the annual District meeting were outstanding! They made it fun and gave us lots of good information at the same time!





**Lastly: Don't forget to sign up for the Ubuntu Day of Service
Saturday, October 18, 2014
9:00 to 3:00 pm
Brooks-Howell Home**

Being Ubuntu (taken from the United Methodist Women website:
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy/ubuntu-mission-trips/background>

Ubuntu is a Zulu/Xhosa word which is an African philosophy for respect for humanity. Simply, it captures the concept: "I am human because you are human." It recognizes that each person is part of a community. This word affirms women as human beings - especially in some cultures where they are not considered equal. Its deeper meaning is respect, dignity, consideration for others, self-esteem, self-honor, humanness. Above all, Ubuntu describes a coming together of God's people to celebrate God's presence and prompting to act on behalf of our neighbors. Ubuntu exemplifies our connections to one another and is a foundation for community action and service. Ubuntu is the foundation of what United Methodist Women members understand as mission and exemplifies faith, hope and love in action.

In the tradition of action and firmly rooted in their PURPOSE, United Methodist women members practice "expanding concepts of mission" through service and action for justice. Women volunteer in their local

communities and around the world as doctors, after-school tutors, advocates for justice and peace, and much more.

Ubuntu is the *being* of mission. It focuses on relationships, shared experience, and mutuality. Ubuntu Journeys are about women of faith coming together through shared mission to address social issues and discover new ways of working together, supporting one another, and growing spiritually. Since the program's inception, Ubuntu Journeys have traveled to Zimbabwe, Uruguay, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Hong Kong and China, Mozambique, Brazil, Russia, India, Philippines, Northern Ireland, Haiti, Chile, South Korea and Sierra Leone. Future Journeys are planned for Zimbabwe (3rd Journey), Costa Rica, Lithuania, and Liberia. (Part of above section is from UMW Ubuntu Day of Service Toolkit, 2011)

Why We Participate in Ubuntu Journeys

Ubuntu Conversion (from Ubuntu Day of Service Toolkit) The message of Ubuntu is carried through Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. It has no direct translation in English. Ubuntu is a traditional African philosophy, which Archbishop Desmond Tutu explains this way:

"It is the essence of being human. It speaks of the fact that my humanity is caught up and is inextricably bound up in yours. I am human because I belong. It speaks about wholeness; it speaks about compassion. A person with Ubuntu is welcoming, hospitable, warm and generous, willing to share. Such people are open and available to others, willing to be vulnerable, affirming of others, do not feel threatened that others are able and good, for they have a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that they belong in a greater whole. They know that they are diminished when others are oppressed, diminished when others are treated as if they were less than who they are. The quality of Ubuntu gives people resilience, enabling them to survive and emerge still human despite all efforts to dehumanize them." ... From *God Has A Dream; A Vision of Hope for Our Time* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 2004.

We Need Each Other In his book *God Has a Dream*, Archbishop Desmond Tutu refers to *ubuntu*. The idea is that "a person is a person through other persons. The solitary human being is a contradiction in terms. I need you in order to be me as you need me in order to be you. We are caught up in a delicate network of interconnectedness. We are made different so that we may know our need of one another."

Imagine that! For many of us, this is a daunting concept, especially in a culture where we place such high regard on our self-sufficiency and independence, being able to stand on our own two feet, and having things our way regardless.

Ubuntu speaks to the essence of our shared humanity and reminds us that in God's family, there are no outsiders. All are insiders. "Black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight, Jew and Arab, Palestinian and Israeli, Roman Catholic and Protestant, Serb and Albanian, Hutu and Tutsi, Muslim and Christian, Buddhist and Hindu, Pakistani and Indian - all belong."

It is through our engagement with all God's children - those we know well and the stranger on the street; those who cheer us on as well as those who try our very last nerve; those who look and act like we do, and those who seem to bear no resemblance at all, etc. - that we learn to be fully human, God's very own.

Imagine how liberating it would be if we were able to muster the courage to say out loud to those around us on a fairly regular basis: "I need you. I am who I am because of you." To sit with the tension of that: the give and take, ups and downs, the taking on and the letting go of things in order that we might fully find our true selves and become who God intended us to be. May God give us strength!

Grace and peace, Rev. Cathy Gilliard Senior Pastor, Park Avenue United Methodist Church New York, New York

Tutu, Archbishop Desmond. *God Has A Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*. Doubleday, 2004.

SEJ QUADRENNIAL MEETING JUNE 3-5, 2016

“A Fresh Wind Blowing”



“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:8 NRS

**Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting
June 3-5, 2016 Charleston, South
Carolina Embassy Suites and Convention Center**

Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women
%CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27 CHURCH STREET
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-1218

Mark Your Calendar for 2014 and 2015:

Blue Ridge District UMW Events for 2014:

Oct. 18 **Ubuntu Service Day**, Brooks-Howell Home
Nov. 1 **Blue Ridge District Leadership Training**, Location: Abertnethy UMC, *Moving on to Lead*

Blue Ridge District UMW Events for 2015:

March 21 **District Prayer Breakfast**, Mills River UMC, Mills River, *Make It Happen Through Prayer*
April 25 **District Mission Study**, East Marion UMC; *Make It Happen Through Study and Action*
August 22 **District Annual Meeting**, Location: TBD, *Make It Happen Through Celebration*
Nov. 7 **Blue Ridge District Leadership Training**, Location: TBD, *Make It Happen Through Training*

Western North Carolina Conference UMW Events fro 2014:

Oct. 11 **District Officer Training**, Granite Falls UMC



Western North Carolina Conference UMW Events fro 2015:

June 12-13 **Spiritual Growth Retreat**, Lake Junaluska
July 16-19 **Mission u!** (Previously School of Christian Mission), Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer, NC
Sept. 11-13 **Conference Annual Meeting**, Lake Junaluska

For More Information:

Visit our Web Site: www.wnccumw.org

Join our Conference UMW Email List

Read the **Conference Gram** and your District Newsletter

Visit us on **Facebook**: www.facebook.com/wnccumw

Visit us on **YouTube**! www.youtube.com/user/wnccumw

