



Sangamon River District

HI LITES

August 2016 Volume XXVI Issue 2



President – Carol Sims
217-899-2880 csims@igrc.org

“Blessed are the peacemakers....”

What a challenge. It seems more and more, people are angry. Angry with the legislature, with those for and against our police, with one issue after another, with terrorists who are screaming hatred and senselessly killing innocents, with elections that sling both mud and impossible promises, with bigotry and hate between groups and no attempt to understand one another. Whether thinking about world issues or personal family or workplace clashes, it's an angry time.

At Annual Conference, the theme was “The Fields are Ripe for the Harvest”. The field IS ripe. Our world needs peacemakers.

Our world needs our Christian faith lived out. Our world needs Jesus. And tragically, most have no clue that the answer lies in a right relationship with God.

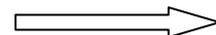
Our world needs United Methodist Women living out our motto: Faith, Hope, & Love in Action. They are not empty words. Our purpose statement is powerful. We all have gifts and graces. We are all daughters of an All-Mighty God, with whom all things are possible!

We each joined the church promising to uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Not just on Sunday morning, but 24/7.

Many of you are mighty prayer warriors

Please pray for your church, your conference with changes in leadership both in UMW and with a new Bishop. Bishop Frank Beard comes to us from Indiana as a newly elected Bishop and we welcome him to IGRC. Bishop Keaton has served us well and been a strong supporter of UMW and will be retiring to the Naperville area.

Please pray for our global ministries and your part in them. Pray for our kids and our teachers as school begins again. Everyone agrees that education is key, but we sometimes forget our need to support it prayerfully, watchfully, and with commitment.



(continued)

Please pray to be a positive change in your world. Let us create a climate for justice. Educate yourself with Bible Study, good books and up-lifting music. Attend UMW events, both district and conference. A lot of great things are offered to you and always available.

Please pray. Even when you don't feel like it. Even when you don't know what to say.

I join you in this commitment. I pray for you and your units. I have witnessed what you do and your desire to do more. I thank God for you, and pray His Blessings on each of you. May God grant us mercy, and peace, and the opportunity to spread both to the world!*Carol*



Vice President – Carol Pinkerton
217-414-1405 bcdrp@aol.com

Sangamon River District Annual Meeting

Can you believe it? This year is flying by and our annual meeting is only about a month away. Please save the date, invite a friend and car pool if you can: **Wednesday, September 14** at **Auburn United Methodist Church**, 14100 Route 4, Auburn, Illinois. We'll start the morning with coffee and fellowship at 9:00 AM and then gather for the annual meeting and memorial service at 9:30. Plan to stay for the Soup Social– the ever popular soup social is coming back again this year!

We are honored to welcome The Reverend Priscilla Jaiah as our featured speaker. Reverend Jaiah is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and Principal of the United Methodist School in Ganta, Liberia. Prior to her assignment to Ganta, Rev. Jaiah served eight years with women and children at the Liberian Refugee Camp at Buduburam, Liberia. Priscilla's work is in a community where life is a struggle. She loves sharing her faith and empowering women and children to be in control of their lives. She helps to move them "from no skills to a career, from no job to self-employment, and from hopelessness to being hopeful."

Join us for the Soup Social at noon – due to popular response, we are serving soup again this year to kick off the fall season. Give a free-will offering and you can even get our soup cooks' special secret recipes. Please join us for a bowl or two and a pleasant social hour.

Checklist for District Annual Meeting 9/14/16:

- **Submit names of your beloved sisters who have gone to be with our heavenly Father this year (see article by Spiritual Growth Coordinator Ellen Dixon)**
- **Contributions for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House (see insert)**
- **Contributions for Cunningham Children's Home (see insert)**
- **Pledge – bring your unit or circle's pledge for 2017 to offer during the Pledge Service**
- **Appetite – bring your appetite and a free-will offering for the Soup Social at noon**
- **Invite a friend to join you on this special day***Carol*



Treasurer – Joanne Randolph
309-287-8428 joannetracylong@gmail.com

Hello All - If we have not already met, this is your new treasurer, Joanne Randolph. I know there has been some confusion during the transition of officers this year, and I am sorry if you were unaware I am serving as your new district treasurer. If you have sent any checks to our former treasurer, Barb Norem, there is no need to worry as she has forwarded all of those checks to me.

Enclosed in the newsletter, please find the current remittance report to be filled and included with any checks your local units send the district. Please note all checks should be made out to the Sangamon River District UMW. Please mail all future remittances to Joanne Randolph, 13758 Whitetail Court, Bloomington, IL, 61705. If you have any questions, please contact me at 309-287-8428 or joannetracylong@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting all of you and serving as your treasurer.
Thank you, *Joanne*



Spiritual Growth – Ellen Dixon
217-691-7676 ellenw.soul@yahoo.com

Several things I need to tell you.

1. God loves you all the time!!
2. **Zephaniah 3:17**
3. **Amplified Bible (AMP)**
4. "The LORD your God is in your midst,
 A Warrior who saves.
 He will rejoice over you with joy;
 He will be quiet in His love [making no mention of your past sins],
 He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.
5. The annual Memorial Service for the ladies and remember any passing of pastors as they are honorary members, will be
 SEPTEMBER 14th in Auburn.
6. Please have these names to me by the end of August. To:
7. Ellen Dixon—1427 N. Franklin Ave. Springfield, IL 62702
8. Or ellenw.soul@yahoo.com OR call at 1-217-691-7676.
9. I will take texts—and give me your phone so I get all the spelling correct.
10. Thanks kind ladies.*Ellen*



Social Action – Virginia McQuiston

217-877-2217 tvmcq83@comcast.net

Knowing that this article is coming due this week, I've been feeling like some students I helped while a librarian at Millikin university. "My paper is almost due, but I don't know where to start. Can you help me?"

I've been spending a lot of time in **prayer** as I learned this week that a good friend has been placed on hospice. Another "forever friend" from college days is very, very ill. Prognosis is uncertain. But earlier when she started on dialysis 3 days a week, she would read about 15 books on the UMW annual reading list receiving a certificate at the highest level. I'd call her asking for recommendations. Before my brother had fully recuperated from a heart valve replacement, his wife had knee surgery and recovery is slow. Yes, **prayers** have been essential. It is easy to **pray** for those whom we know and love, but what about those we don't know, problems that seem overwhelming?

A conversation with my masseuse, Janie, alerted me to potential human trafficking within that profession by unscrupulous owners. **Prayers** are needed for those working to end human trafficking.

Our food pantries and kitchens are seeing more and more hungry persons. We need to understand reasons for hunger, poverty, homelessness, minimum wage jobs which don't cover all needs, inaccessibility to sources of healthy foods, etc. Learn about the work done by Bread for the World in urging our legislators to support programs which help alleviate hunger. (www.bread.org) **Pray** for those working in this cause.

Our news sources are filled with news about violence, close to home and far away. Many victims and perpetrators are dealing with mental illness or come from troubled backgrounds. **Pray** for more understanding of and treatment for mental health to become available. **Pray** for those working in this challenging field.

The political rhetoric we are hearing is depressing. **Pray** that our political leaders will seek to build up, not tear down all which is good within our blessed nation.

Pray for mission programs such as McCurdy's Project Carino, which was started with a UMW grant from Prayer and Self Denial. This program helps kids who have lost loved ones, who lack self-esteem having come from troubled homes, or have experienced bullying.

Pray for those working to bring justice within our prison system, to reduce mass incarceration, to rehabilitate those being released from prison. READ Just Mercy from our UMW reading list which has just opened my eyes and heart to problems and to recognize those working so hard to bring justice and mercy.

Take this list and/or make your own concerning Social Issues which need our **Prayers** to your quiet devotional corner. **Pray without ceasing**. The words of a choir anthem come to my mind "If I ever needed the Lord before, I sure do need him now." God answers **prayers**.

.....Peace and blessings, Virginia McQuiston



Education & Interpretation - Alice Wiedrich
217-875-5325

We need to honor Bill Kreeb for his 35 years of service to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. Please send a gift in his honor properly labeled to our District Treasurer. A gift in his honor will be made to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House at our Conference Annual Meeting on October 1.

It's time to assess our available money for reaching this year's pledge to mission! Do we need another fund raiser? Do we need to reach deeper in our purses? Look at your situation and make plans for finishing this year as well as plan for next year. Our pledge to mission for 2017 should be brought to our District Annual Meeting on September 14 at Auburn UMC. See you there! Be a cheerleader for missions!!!
.....*Alice Wiedrich*



Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood Reps.
Linda Schneider 217-735-3756 sitnknit@comcast.com
Jeanne` Sims 217-498-7187 pjsims@comcast.net

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House is still alive. Not as "healthy" as she has been, but still alive, thanks to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, the UMW, the United Way, and individual contributions. Thankfully, the State voted to support education; we have a good program in that. The director and staff took 20% cuts. Some of the employees are almost as destitute as the people to whom they minister; so this cut was a true sacrifice. And yes, some of the employees have been removed in the field of adult care. But some of the programs are still functioning, and, hopefully more state funding will come soon. In the meanwhile thank you for your contributions, for your prayers, and your faith in us.

It is almost time for school to begin, so we are getting ready for our "Backpack Giveaway" on August 1.

The Retirement Celebration for Bill Kreeb will be held on August 20 (12:00 noon), at the Gateway Center, 1 Gateway Dr., Collinsville, IL. Tickets are \$30. Call LBDNH for tickets, 618-874-0777. Bill will be honored by our contributions to the Scholarship Fund; you are invited to contribute to that.

Mr. Chris Coleman is on the job. He is a product of the LBDNH program. Now after much education and life experience, plus having been on the Board for 17 years, he has been chosen to be the new director. Those who have known him are thrilled and the rest of us are watching with interest and encouragement. Please join us in welcoming him by your prayers, your gifts, and your volunteering.

Bill will be honored at the Conference Annual Meeting in Decatur, October 1.

Thanks for all you have done. We count on your continued love and support.

.....*Jeanne` Sims and Linda Schneider*



Secretary – Barbara Norem
217-864-5948 mnorem2@comcast.net

Please remember to fill out the enclosed listing of your 2017 local officers. Please return to me by the September 14th meeting in order to get the directory to the printer in a timely manner. Thank you!

.....Barbara



CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN’S HOME REP.
Helen Kershaw 217-875-0818
kershaw@ameritech.net

First of all, we welcome **Marnita Wade** who has accepted the assignment of being our second District Representative to CCH from the Sangamon River District. Thank you, Marnita. (See suggested needs list on the September 14 district meeting flyer.)

NEWS ABOUT THE NEW EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTER AT CCH

Tim Manard, Development Officer at CCH, spoke to our District UMW Executive Board at our last meeting. The newly revised plan is completed and the campaign is off to a great start.

We encourage you to organize a group of friends and people in your community to hear the story of Cunningham. Unless people know about the wonderful things that happen with these troubled youth who come to CCH, they will simply not pay attention. We hear great news every week.

How can you help spread the news? Let us, your district reps, help you tell the story or, even better, invite either **Tim Manard or Sharla Jolly**, Director of Advancement, to speak to your group of friends and/or community people. These two speakers would give a wonderful, interesting, exciting program for any of these groups of people. Contacts: Tim Manard, tmanard@cunninghamhome.org, or telephone: 217-337-9071 and Sharla Jolly, sjolly@cunninghamhome.org or telephone: 217-337-9073.

Be sure you know the story and successes of CCH and then share it with others!

Tim suggested these possible interest groups:

- Art Enthusiasts; Attorneys; Bank Presidents/VP/Board; Insurance Agents
- Business Owners; Church Members/include other than U Methodists
- Coaches, Sports; Community Groups – Lions Club, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.
- Corporation CEO’s/Top Level Admin; Country Club/Members
- Doctors, Health Care Professionals; Farmers; Fitness Center Owners
- Hospital Administration/Board Members; Individuals, Personal or Family Wealth

.....Helen



Chairperson of Nominations – Leanne Roseberry

217-585-8279 leanneroseberry@comcast.net

The Nominations committee is looking for women to fill the following positions starting in 2017:

Spiritual Growth--give a devotion at all District meetings; gather names of deceased members and plan the memorial service in the Fall

Membership, Nurture and Outreach--collect the number of current members in each unit, plus members gained and lost, then compile this into a report to be sent to the Conference; encourage units in increasing their memberships

Communications--gather articles sent in from other officers, then create and mail out the Hi-Lites newsletter; must also keep an updated mailing list

Cunningham Children's Home rep—attend meetings with other district representatives 3 times a year at Cunningham Children's Home; you will be trained by staff on how to be a speaker for CCH; set up displays at special events

All positions will attend District Officers' meetings, and write articles for the Hi-Lites newsletter. You will serve a maximum 4 year term. We are looking for women who have a passion for serving. If you are interested, or know of someone who would be great in one of these positions, please let me know. Thanks so much for your help.

.....Leanne

UMW Calendar of Events 2016

***Fall Gathering
September 14 at Auburn UMC***

***Conference Annual Meeting
October 1 at Decatur Grace UMC***

***Personal/Spiritual Growth Seminar
November 5 at Decatur First***

[End of the Year Reports due in December.]

Local Officers for Sangamon River District

For 2017

Name of Unit: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____
 e-mail: _____

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President: e-mail:		
Vice President: e-mail:		
Secretary: e-mail:		
Treasurer: e-mail:		
Spiritual Growth: e-mail:		
Social Action: e-mail:		
Education & Interp: e-mail:		
Membership N&O: e-mail:		
Sec. of Program Resources: e-mail:		
Nominations Chair: e-mail address:		
Nominations: e-mail address:		
Nominations: e-mail address:		
Nominations: e-mail address:		

Please send the list of new officers by the September district meeting to:

Barbara Norem
 mnorem2@comcast.net
 3420 S. Marilyn Dr.
 Decatur, IL 62521



Sangamon River District

UMW Annual Meeting



Wednesday, September 14, 2016

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Auburn UMC

14100 State Route 4, Auburn, IL 62615

- **Featuring Rev. Priscilla Jaiah**

**Missionary and Principal of the UM School in Ganta,
Liberia**

- **Also Featuring: Memorial Service and Election of Officers**

9:00 am – 9:30 am: Coffee & Fellowship

9:30 am – 12:30 pm: Annual Meeting

12:30 pm: Soup Social

Cunningham Wish List: Gift cards--Wal-Mart, Kohl's and Target; Fast food gift cards--Wendy's, Steak 'n Shake, KFC and Jimmy John's. Also women's body wash.

If you prefer to give a gift card, please consider giving a single gift card rather than multiple gift cards. One card for \$25 is easier for our youth to use than give gift cards worth \$5

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House Wish List: adult diapers (medium and large) and/or hand and body lotion.

BALLOT

2017 SANGAMON RIVER DISTRICT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

_____ Carol Sims
_____ Springfield, IL

PROGRAM RESOURCES

_____ Ruth Johnston
_____ Springfield, IL

CUNNINGHAM REP.

_____ Helen Kershaw
_____ Decatur, IL

HONORARY V-PRES.

Martha Harter

COMMUNICATIONS

**LESSIE BATES DAVIS
REPRESENTATIVES**

_____ Linda Schneider
_____ Lincoln, IL
_____ Jeanne Sims
_____ Rochester, IL

VICE-PRESIDENT

_____ Marnita Wade
_____ Springfield, IL

CHAIRPERSON OF NOMINATIONS

_____ Leanne Roseberry
_____ Springfield, IL

SECRETARY

_____ Barbara Norem
_____ Decatur, IL

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

_____ Leanne Roseberry (2017)
_____ Springfield, IL
_____ Elaine Knight (2017)
_____ Lincoln, IL
_____ Gloria Jones (2018)
_____ Taylorville, IL
_____ Lena Banks (2018)
_____ Taylorville, IL
_____ Pam Dufour (2019)
_____ Farmersville, IL
_____ Joan Lawrence (2019)
_____ Taylorville, IL

TREASURER

_____ Joanne Randolph
_____ Bloomington, IL

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

EDUCATION & INTERP.

_____ Pat Howard
_____ Illiopolis, IL

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH

SOCIAL ACTION

_____ Virginia McQuiston
_____ Decatur, IL.

Ruth Johnston, Dist. UMW Newsletter
Chatham United Methodist Church
104 W. Chestnut St.
Chatham, IL 62629

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID.
Permit No. 6
Chatham, IL 62629

Return Service Requested



COMMUNICATIONS

If you would like to receive a copy of the Conference UMW newsletter, "The Bridge", by mail, you can subscribe for the 3 issues a year for \$2.00. Send your check and mailing information to the GRC UMW Communications Coordinator, Kay Fisher, 324 S. Center Ave., Bradley IL 60915. Checks should be made payable to IGRC UMW. You can also find the newsletter online at www.igrc.org, click on "communications" and then find United Methodist Women. You can also subscribe to be on the emailing list by checking the box beside United Methodist Women. Kay has also established a UMW Facebook page at [igrc umw](https://www.facebook.com/igrcumw). Be sure to "like" and "share".